

Genscher: Cooperate with Soviets

SIEGEN (AP) — Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher urged Western allies Saturday to seek greater cooperation with the Soviet Union. He also praised recent proposals by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. Speaking before members of his Free Democratic Party, Mr. Genscher said the West was presented with a unique opportunity to improve East-West relations. He also warned against letting mistrust of the Soviet Union destroy the chance for better relations with Moscow. "It would be a mistake of historic proportions if the West were to let this chance go by, only because it is unable to rid itself of the thought that we must assume the worst of the Soviet Union and its intentions," Mr. Genscher told delegates to a North Rhine-Westphalia state party congress. "We should not shrink back from our chance (to improve East-West relations) but make use of it," he added. Mr. Genscher said Mr. Gorbachev's recent proposed domestic reforms and proposals that the superpowers negotiate a pact to rid Europe of medium-range nuclear missiles were in the interests of the Western allies. "Gorbachev's policies are in the interest of the West, if they follow his recent pronouncements," Mr. Genscher said.

Jordan Times

Any independent Arab political daily publication should be based on the Jordanian Foundation

جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة تأسست على المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

Volume 12 Number 3424

AMMAN, SUNDAY MARCH 15, 1987, RAJAB 15, 1407

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Cabinet abolishes fee on non-Jordanian trucks

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet on Saturday decided, during its regular session, to abolish a JD 75 exit fee on non-Jordanian owned refrigerator trucks leaving the country with loads of Jordanian agricultural products in a move to promote exports. During the session the Cabinet approved the establishment of a joint Jordanian-Egyptian investment company and also approved the Aqaba Regional Authority's budget for 1987.

Temperature to rise

AMMAN (J.T.) — The depression currently affecting Jordan is expected to subside gradually on Sunday with a rise in temperature, a spokesman for the Meteorology Department said Saturday. The spokesman said that a gradual increase of clouds of different levels was expected with a rise in temperature due to a warm front originating from Central Mediterranean.

Andreotti briefs Cossiga on coalition

ROME (R) — Prime Minister-designate Giulio Andreotti on Saturday briefed President Francesco Cossiga on the first round of his political consultations to try to form a new Italian government. Mr. Andreotti, 86, a Christian Democrat, has headed five previous governments and served as foreign minister under Prime Minister Bettino Craxi, who resigned on March 3. On Monday Mr. Andreotti begins a second round of consultations with political leaders on setting up another five-party coalition made up of Christian Democrats, Socialists, Republicans, Social Democrats and Liberals.

5 timebombs explode in Tokyo

TOKYO (AP) — Timebombs exploded nearly simultaneously Saturday at the offices of five companies involved in the construction of Tokyo's Narita airport, police said. One person was slightly injured in the explosions, police said. Chukakuba, a radical group opposed to the airport construction, claimed responsibility for the bombings at a rally in Tokyo Saturday night. Kyodo News Service reported. Police said the explosions occurred between 3:15 a.m. and 3:30 a.m. in Tokyo, Chiba, Saitama and Ibaragi, all in the Tokyo area. Police suspect radicals opposed to the airport since the targeted firms are all involved in the second phase of construction of the airport, a police official said. Local farmers and their supporters have been resisting the government's expropriation of farmland to expand the airport.

12 killed in Philippines violence

MANILA (AP) — Communist rebels ambushed a military truck in the southern Philippines on Saturday, killing eight people and wounding six others, military officials said. In a separate incident in Bulacan province just outside Manila, soldiers fatally shot four suspected insurgents as they allegedly tried to escape after overpowering two officers during an interrogation, the military said.

INSIDE

- TASS: U.S. tried 'crude provocation' on Iran, page 2
- Jordan and Syria discuss joint industrial projects, page 3
- Stop bleeding shareholding companies, says Faneck, page 4
- Can an accountant who never made a program run the BBC, page 5
- Watford beats Arsenal, page 6
- IMF chief says industrialised nations should aid poor states, page 7
- Kremlin assures Soviets that 'past mistakes will not be repeated,' page 8

Rifai: Jordan is back on course towards development and progress

Balance of trade has improved by JD 35m • Gold and currency reserves stand at JD 822m • Liquidity has risen to 10.5 per cent • Deposits in commercial banks total JD 2,000m

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai said Saturday that economic measures adopted by the government over the past year had begun to bear fruit and the country was now back on the right course towards further development and progress.

In a wide-ranging interview with the chief editors of the Al Ra'i and Al-Dustour newspapers, Mr. Rifai said that the imports of the country fell to JD 850 million in 1986 from JD 1,072 million in the previous year and exports increased, thereby bringing about an improvement of about JD 35 million in the country's balance of trade.

Mr. Rifai said that the country's reserves of gold and foreign currency stood at JD 822 million, up from JD 781 million in the previous year; Jordanian expatriates transfers to the Kingdom increased from JD 402 million in

1985 to JD 415 million in 1986, and that liquidity increased inside the Kingdom from 6.6 per cent in 1985 to 10.5 per cent in 1986. According to the prime minister, the gross national product in Jordan, at fixed prices, increased from 3.2 per cent in 1985 to 3.7 per cent in 1986, the growth in commercial banks' deposits rose from nine per cent in 1985 to 11.5 per cent in 1986, credit facilities offered to the private sector in the country rose from 7.6 per cent in 1985 to 9.5 per cent in 1986 and that inflation dropped from three per cent in 1985 to zero in 1986. According to the prime minister,

the volume of trade at the Amman Financial Market rose significantly, and in the first two months of 1987 it registered an increase of 182 per cent over the 1986 average figure.

Following is the text of the interview:

Question: The government has worked out a new elections law. When does the government plan to put it into force, and does the government plan to dissolve Parliament to pave for a new election?

Answer: The new election law has not been suspended and it will be put into force once the mandate of the present Parliament is over and after a new election is held. The present mandate of Parliament ends by 16.1.1988 and the constitution provides for a new election in the four months that precede the date of the termination of this mandate; that is to say that a new election should be held



before the end of this year if the present mandate is not extended. The King is empowered by the constitution to extend the mandate for one or two extra years. If this does not happen then the election should be held before the end of 1987. It is true that the last election was held 20 years ago but by-elections were held over the past period and 18 people were elected representing the West

French hostage faces death threat ultimatum

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A French television technician held hostage in Lebanon was facing a death threat on Saturday after France dismissed a 48-hour ultimatum from his kidnappers.

The pro-Iranian Revolutionary Justice Organisation said it would "put on trial and execute" Jean-Louis Normandin unless French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac explained remarks by President Francois Mitterrand within 48 hours.

The group's hand-written statement, which contained no specific deadline, was delivered to an international news agency in Beirut at about 1200 GMT Thursday.

In Paris, Mr. Chirac's spokesman Denis Baudouin said Friday that France would "pursue the fight against terrorism, from wherever it comes and in whatever form it manifests itself."

Mr. Normandin, 35, was seized on March 8 last year with three other crewmen of the Antenne-2 television station after filming a rally of Iranian-backed Hizbollah (Party of God) militants in southern Beirut. His three colleagues have since been freed.

Baudouin said the French government protested vigorously against the detention of Normandin and other French hostages, and held their captors responsible for their fate.

He said France still desired better relations with Iran and a senior French official reported progress in talks on repayment of

Kidnappers issue new statement

BEIRUT (R) — The underground Revolutionary Justice Organisation said Saturday it had declared war on France and a French hostage it held faced trial and execution within 48 hours. The handwritten statement, delivered to the independent An Nahar newspaper, said the pro-Iranian group had made the move after Paris dismissed a 48-hour ultimatum to explain remarks by President Francois Mitterrand. "Because Mitterrand's statements were not explained, we have declared war on France and put (Jean-Louis) Normandin on trial and will announce his execution within 48 hours," it said.

a long-standing Iranian loan.

The kidnappers' statement came with a colour photograph of Normandin, bearded and wearing a blue track suit and T-shirt.

The Revolutionary Justice Organisation issued no fresh word on his condition or whereabouts on Saturday.

"We have no special arrangements regarding the French hostage. We have no information on him," police chief Osman Osman said Saturday.

Meanwhile, in Washington, the United States appealed for the release of foreign hostages in Lebanon ahead of second anniversary on Monday of the capture of the longest held American Terry Anderson.

China to join arms talks after U.S.-Soviet accord

VIENNA (AP) — A high Chinese official was quoted Saturday as saying Peking may join international negotiations aimed at eliminating nuclear weapons provided the United States and the Soviet Union reach agreement first.

The official Bulgarian news agency BTA, in a dispatch from the capital Sofia, said Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian made the statement Friday on arrival in Bulgaria from Poland for an official visit.

Mr. Wu, on a seven-nation European tour, met with his Bulgarian counterpart Peter Mladenov on Friday and discussed topics of international interest including the recent Soviet proposal to eliminate medium-range nuclear missiles from Europe, according to BTA, which is monitored in Vienna.

The two ministers were also reported to have noted "the great significance" of the Soviet offer. In their talks, the two men emphasised the importance of the superpower arms talks in Geneva for the improvement and stabi-

lisation of international relations, BTA reported.

The news agency quoted Mr. Wu as saying that if the United States and the Soviet Union reached an agreement on the elimination of nuclear weapons, China, as a nuclear power, would be prepared to join international negotiations at a later stage to complete the removal of all such weapons.

Mr. Wu, who started his European tour in Czechoslovakia, was also scheduled to visit West Germany, Italy, San Marino and Switzerland.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's Feb. 28 proposal has raised hopes that Moscow and Washington could agree by the end of the year to scrap the European missiles and cut their numbers in Soviet Asia.

In another development, the United States has charged that the Soviet Union on numerous occasions over the past 10 years has released radioactive gas and debris into the atmosphere as a result of nuclear tests.



EVICTED FROM HOME: After living in Jerusalem's Arab quarter for over 50 years, the Karake family (above) were evicted by Israeli police on Wednesday. Rashad Karake, 33, head of the family, said the Israeli authorities took this action because all previous efforts by Jewish settlers to buy the house from him or harass the family out of the neighbourhood had failed. The Israeli justice ministry refused to comment to the Jerusalem Post regarding the case. At roughly 5:30 a.m. Wednesday, about 50 police and border police gathered in the area to evict Mr. Karake, his wife Laila, his 75-year-old mother-in-law Mahdiah and his six children. They were all driven outside, their furniture carted away and the door nailed shut. Mr. Karake said his mother-in-law was taken by the Israeli authorities and he did not know where she is. Mr. Karake vowed that he and his family will live in the street in protest. "We will sleep here," he said. "We have no other choice."

'U.S. and Israel had agreement not to spy'

TEL AVIV (AP) — A former Israeli foreign ministry official said Saturday the Pollard spy episode violated a formal agreement between Israel and the United States not to spy on each other.

Silomo Avineri, a leading Israeli academic and former director-general of the foreign ministry, said that the agreement between the two allies had existed for several years.

Avineri's comments indicated a more official arrangement concerning espionage between the two countries than had previously been assumed to exist.

Until now, officials had referred only to an unspoken understanding between Israel and the United States that they would not engage in espionage activity against each other.

"There has been a formal understanding between the United States and Israel not to spy on one another," Avineri said in a telephone interview.

Avineri refused to elaborate on details of the agreement, including whether it was written form, saying only "it has been in existence for some years."

"The Pollard episode was in clear violation of that agreement," Avineri said.

Pollard, 32, a former U.S. navy intelligence analyst, was sentenced last week to life in prison for selling Israel classified U.S. military information. His wife, Anne Henderson-Pollard, 26, was given a five-year prison term for her role in the spy affair.

The Pollard episode has deeply strained relations between the two allies. Israeli analysts say they fear the affair may harm U.S. aid to the Jewish state, which now totals about \$3 billion, or U.S. intelligence cooperation.

American officials were particularly angered by the recent promotions of Aviem Sella, an air force official who recruited Pollard, and Rafael Eitan, a former intelligence officer.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres admitted Friday the government had erred in promoting Colonel Sella to head an important air force base and Eitan to head the state-owned Israel Chemicals Co.

"We simply made a mistake," Peres said in an interview on Israel Television when asked about the promotions.

Peres said he was confident the government's decision last Wednesday to appoint a two-man investigatory panel to probe the Pollard case would defuse rising tensions with the United States.

Bank and 11 new deputies were elected representing the East Bank. This means that there is a total of 29 new deputies, nearly half the House, now sitting in Parliament.

Q: Does the government plan to recommend an extension of this mandate?

A: It is premature to discuss this subject. As I said, unless the King extends Parliament's mandate then the election has to be held before the end of the year.

Q: Since Amman has been extended to include other municipalities, does the government plan to consider municipal elections within the whole of the Greater Amman area?

A: Of Course, the government plans to do that and there will be elections for the Amman city proper and for the other municipalities included within the Greater Amman region. As you know,

(Continued on page 3)

Syrians supervise relief supplies to Bourj Al Barajneh

BEIRUT (R) — Syrian officers supervised the entry of U.N. relief supplies into a beleaguered Palestinian refugee camp in southern Beirut on Saturday.

Eyewitnesses said two Syrian military observers stood at the edge of Bourj Al Barajneh with officials of the Shi'ite Amal militia as three U.N. trucks drove slowly along a muddy, shell-cratered road into the camp at least 12,000.

Amal lifted a siege of Bourj Al Barajneh and its sister camp of Shatila on Feb. 18 after a four-and-a-half month war in Beirut and South Lebanon left some 850 people dead.

A spokeswoman for the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) said the trucks were loaded with 27 tonnes of food and 50 kilograms of medical supplies.

She said UNRWA handed an equivalent amount of food, donated by the World Food Programme, to Amal for Shi'ites living nearby — the condition for some previous deliveries to the camps.

Shi'ite Lebanese army troops stood by, but there was no sign of Amal fighters. Shi'ite forces have continued to restrict access to Bourj Al Barajneh and Shatila despite the presence of Syrian troops nearby.

Over 7,000 Syrian troops moved into west Beirut on Feb. 22, but stayed clear of the camps and adjacent Shi'ite areas.

This was the third UNRWA convoy to reach Bourj Al Barajneh since Amal announced the lifting of the siege. Two convoys organised by Iranian mediators and one by pro-Syrian Palestinians have also entered the camp since then.

The witnesses said UNRWA's assistant field health officer Ali Dakwar, who is a Palestinian doctor, accompanied the trucks to inspect damage to the camp's only medical facility.

Amal says it wants to stop Palestinians from regaining the strength they had before Israel's 1982 invasion.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which has accused Amal and Syria of seeking to drive refugees out of Lebanon, has urged the United Nations to take action to halt shelling of the shantytowns and relieve suffering there.

Washington welcomes Syrian role in Beirut but has doubts, page 2

'Geagea assassination plot' revealed

BEIRUT (R) — A would-be assassin said Saturday he had given himself up to Lebanon's main rightist militia after deciding to abort an alleged plan to kill its leader with a car bomb. Fuad Rabbani, 32, told a news conference organised by the mainly Christian "Lebanese Forces" militia that he was offered \$250,000 to plant a car bomb to kill its leader Samir Geagea. He said his orders were to park a car loaded with 80 kilograms of explosive on a route Dr. Geagea was expected to take earlier this week. "As soon as I knew who the target was... I decided to go along with the plan... to expose those behind it," he said. Mr. Rabbani, a civil engineer, accused Syria, former "Lebanese Forces" commander Elie Hobeika and ex-President Suleiman Franjeh's grandson Suleiman of being behind the alleged plot. He said he had given himself up with the booby-trapped car at a Lebanese Forces' checkpoint controlling access to the militia-run Christian enclave. Dr. Geagea, 35, is bitterly opposed to Syrian influence in Lebanon. He became "Lebanese Forces" leader in January 1986, ousting Mr. Hobeika two weeks after the latter signed a Syrian-backed peace pact for Lebanon with leftist militias.



KING ATTENDS EXERCISES: His Majesty King Hussein, the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, Saturday attends a military exercise conducted by an Armed Forces unit (above). The King was briefed on the stages and goals of the exercise. Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Fathi Abu Taleh, the Armed Forces inspector-general and a number of high-ranking army officers accompanied the King to the exercises. Earlier on Saturday, the King paid a visit to the Armed Forces General Headquarters (below). The King met with Gen. Sharif Zaid for sometime and issued directives.



Iraqi paper predicts major Iranian assault

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — The Iraqi army newspaper Al Qadisiya said it expected Iran to launch a major offensive a week from Saturday to mark the end of the Iranian year.

The newspaper, in an editorial, promised the Iraqi people their armed forces would "defeat the aggressors on March 21, after which they (the Iranians) would be left with nothing to tell their own people."

Iran has threatened to launch a decisive offensive in the six-and-a-half year war before the end of its calendar year on March 21. But Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi said recently this might be extended to the next 12 months.

Iranian forces are lodged on Iraqi territory, some of them only about 10 kilometres east of the southern port city of Basra, following a ground attack launched in January.

Diplomats in Baghdad and Tehran have said Iran has some 200,000 troops massed near Basra. The Iraqi government has denied this, saying tens of thousands of Iranian troops are

facing hundreds of thousands of Iraqis.

U.S. 'warned Iran'

In another development, the American TV CBS said Friday that the United States had warned Iran not to fire newly installed missiles at ships in the Gulf.

The network's Pentagon correspondent said the Iranians had installed about a dozen surface-to-surface missiles in sites one U.S. intelligence officer said would allow them to shoot at passing tankers.

The report did not say if Washington planned any response if the missiles were fired. U.S. officials declined comment on the report.

Merchant vessels in the Gulf have frequently been targets in the war between Iran and Iraq.

Iran's official IRNA news agency said Friday that Iranian naval forces intercepted and searched seven cargo ships and oil tankers for Iraq-bound goods in the Strait of Hormuz on the southern entrance of the Gulf.

Confusion prevails over death toll in ferry disaster

BRUSSELS (R) — Conflicting death tolls from last week's car ferry disaster caused confusion on Saturday with Belgian Transport Minister Herman de Croo saying the number of victims could be over 200 while the ship owners maintain the figure is 134.

Mr. De Croo said on Flemish Radio on Saturday he had obtained official figures from maritime authorities which said 45 people died and about 164 were missing after the British ferry Herald of Free Enterprise sank off the Belgian port of Zeebrugge last Friday.

The minister told parliament on Friday the number rescued from the wreck was only 349 and not 409 as reported.

Mr. De Croo said Saturday the discrepancy was due to the fact that children under four years old were not on the passenger list and other people may have boarded the ship unnoticed.

Some passengers who escaped had been counted twice in the confusion on Friday evening, boosting the rescued total, as emergency services fought to save more lives, he added.

But a spokesman for the ship's

owners Townsend Thoresen at Zeebrugge told Reuters by telephone the company stood by its figures of 409 survivors, 55 dead of which 49 had been identified and 79 people missing.

The ferry still lies on its side in 12 metres of water just outside Zeebrugge harbour where it heeled over after filling with water on its way to Dover in southeast England.

The Townsend Thoresen spokesman said Mr. De Croo was right in saying that children under four years of age were normally not registered on the passenger list.

But Townsend Thoresen based its figures on a head-count taken by its staff when people were entering rescue boats.

The spokesman said he could not rule out the possibility mentioned by Mr. De Croo that other people may have been taken onto the ship in secret by truck drivers.

But before issuing figures, the company had checked them very carefully and the huge gap in the number of people aboard given by the minister and the company was unlikely, he said.

TASS: Washington tried 'crude provocation' in Iran

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet News Agency TASS on Saturday reported an Iranian leader's claim that U.S. envoys tried to convince Tehran a Soviet invasion was planned, and called Washington's report "a deliberate crude provocation."

Iranian Parliament Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani said during a weekly prayer sermon carried by the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) on Friday that American officials, whom he did not name, had shown Iranians satellite photographs purported to show Soviet troops amassed near the Soviet-Iran border.

Former U.S. National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane and other officials made secret trips to Iran last year to arrange arms sales, negotiate for the release of Americans held hostage in Lebanon and explore the possibility of improving relations.

According to White House memos printed in the Tower Commission report on the Iran-contra arms deal, one purpose of the American visit to Tehran last May was to deliver an intelligence report on Soviet military deployment near Iran.

"The U.S. officials were trying to convince Tehran that the Soviets intended to unleash a war against Iran and presented a map showing 'specific directions of Soviet invasion'," TASS said in its commentary titled "Washington's fresh malicious invention."

"Washington's inventions can be evaluated only as a deliberate crude provocation, a clumsy attempt at ascribing to the Soviet Union aggressive and hegemonistic aims pursued by the United States itself."

TASS said the Soviet Union was one of the first to recognize the Iranian revolution and condemn alleged U.S. interference in domestic affairs in the Islamic state.

"It is not the Soviet Union, but the United States, which is preparing for armed interference in Iran."

the (Arabian) Gulf," TASS said. "Washington is holding secret talks with a number of states of the region on the deployment in their territory of units from among the interventionist Rapid Deployment Force."

The Soviet Union claims it has remained neutral in the Iran-Iraq war, which broke out in September 1980. Western sources, however, say the Kremlin is Iraq's major arms supplier.

Soviet media have condemned the covert U.S. sale of arms to Iran as interference in the Gulf conflict.

The TASS commentary on Mr. Rafsanjani's speech made no mention of the hostage situation in Lebanon or the goals of the secret U.S. visits to Iran last year.

Mr. Rafsanjani said Friday, the U.S. warning was intended to undermine Soviet-Iranian relations, "involve us in a war with our northern neighbour" and divert Iranian troops from the battlefront with Iraq.

Arab-American leader to sue U.S. government for seizing passport

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The leader of an Islamic-Arab-American organization, whose passport was seized because he defied a ban on travel to Lebanon, has said he will file suit against the U.S. government to regain the document.

D.T. Mehdi, secretary general of the National Council on Islamic Affairs, said in a telephone interview from New York that he will ask the U.S. district court in Washington next week to order the return of the passport.

First, Dr. Mehdi said, he will try to meet Secretary of State George Shultz or a representative Monday to make a personal plea for return of the passport.

The State Department, to keep Americans out of Lebanon, announced on Jan. 28 that U.S. passports would no longer be valid for travel to that country.

Dr. Mehdi, who had been in Lebanon in December on what he said was a negotiating effort on behalf of U.S. hostages, returned to Beirut in early February on a similar mission.

The effort was unsuccessful and Dr. Mehdi left on Feb. 19 after he was robbed by gunmen at his Beirut hotel.

No action was taken against him when he returned to New York from that trip. But last week when Dr. Mehdi arrived at Newark International Airport from a brief visit to London, U.S. customs agents seized his passport at the request of the State Department.

Dr. Mehdi, 59, said he was born in Baghdad, Iraq and became a U.S. citizen in 1983. In a statement, the State Department said it ordered Dr.

Mehdi's passport seized "determine if it has been used improperly" and did not know if it would be returned.

The State Department said that Dr. Mehdi had violated a ban on travel to Lebanon.

Dr. Mehdi contends that he was on travel to Lebanon is unconstitutional. He defied a similar ban on travel to Libya last year.

A State Department spokesman, Laura Jahl, said that Dr. Mehdi's passport had been confiscated as evidence that he violated the ban on travel to Lebanon.

"It doesn't matter when we take it from him, once he's used it," she said. "The fact is, even if they don't catch you right when you've done it, the passport's still not valid."

U.S., Israel condemned for role in C. America

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (R) — The Non-Aligned Movement has condemned what it called U.S. aggression against Nicaragua and said both South Africa and Israel were supporting U.S. military policy in Central America.

"Nicaragua has been the victim of a cruel, unfair and unequal war imposed upon it by the most powerful country in the world," said a statement issued at the end of a three-day conference here of nations which describe themselves as not aligned with either East or West.

The statement, entitled the "Georgetown Peace Appeal," urged Washington to "contribute to the creation of conditions needed for a peaceful settlement" in Central America.

In a separate final communiqué, the conference "called upon the government of the United States of America to immediately cease all pressures and acts of aggression against Nicaragua."

Both documents were issued early Friday after drawn-out discussions in which moderate members argued against a stridently anti-American tone.

Police thwart Palestinian meeting in Munich, arrest 7

MUNICH (R) — Police have sealed off an area of Munich to prevent a meeting called to discuss Palestinian revolution and detained seven people, two on suspicion of supporting a "terrorist organization," police said.

About 300 police took part in the operation, which followed a court ban on the meeting, a spokesman said.

Iran to get U.S. computers from Europe

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — An official of Iran's government news service has said the agency had concluded an agreement to buy U.S.-made computers with European firms and not American companies.

The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), monitored in Nicosia, quoted the official as saying claims that these computers may be used for military purposes were "ridiculous and irrelevant."

The official, who was not named, blamed "difference of interest of the power factions in the U.S." for a propaganda campaign on the proposed sale, the agency said.

U.S. Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige and Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger are at odds over a proposal to sell \$1.4 million worth of equipment containing U.S.-made computers to Iran. Mr. Baldrige is for the sale, and Mr. Weinberger is against it.

The computers in the proposed sale were made by the U.S.-based Digital Equipment Corp.

The IRNA official said the agreement with European firms to purchase the PDP Digital computers was concluded long ago, the agency said. He did not give any specific date nor name the companies.

The computers in question have been on the market for several years and are available in Europe and that is why "we have opted for this type," IRNA quoted the official as saying.

Cyprus holds 2 Lebanese women after drug finds

LARNACA, Cyprus (R) — A court Saturday ordered a 19-year-old Lebanese woman held after police said they found one kilogram of heroin hidden in her corsets at Larnaca Airport.

Zaina Naji Eid, who arrived in Larnaca by ferry from the Lebanese port of Jounieh, had been planning to go to Australia via Abu Dhabi, police said. She was arrested Friday.

Another woman, 60-year-old Chahid Moukbel Terkman, was ordered held by the court Friday after police said they found a similar amount of heroin in her corsets at the airport on Thursday.

Neither woman has been normally charged but both were ordered held for eight days while police made further investigations, court sources said.

Police said Terkman had arrived on the same ferry as Eid and also had been going to Australia, but by way of Muscat.

Senators voice impatience at pace of Iran probe

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The leaders of the Senate committee investigating the Iran-contra controversy expressed impatience at the pace of independent counsel Lawrence Walsh's probe into the case.

Sen. Daniel Inouye, the committee chairman, said it took Mr. Walsh several weeks to complete his interrogation of Fawn Hall, former secretary to Lt. Col. Oliver North, and then make her available to congressional investigators for questioning.

"Now I'm certain he has his own way of doing his business but at times we find it a bit difficult to appreciate his need for five, six, seven weeks to question a witness," said Sen. Inouye.

The Democratic senator's own committee has been subjected to criticism that it was moving too quickly toward granting key witnesses limited immunity from prosecution in order to compel their testimony.

The panel's top Republican, Sen. Warren Rudman, noted in the same interview that the Senate committee doesn't "need anyone's approval to do what we're doing and we don't intend to seek it. We intend to cooperate to the extent that we can and fulfill our responsibilities."

One Senate official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Senate investigators agreed either in late January or early February to permit Mr. Walsh to question Ms. Hall before they did. This official said Mr. Walsh notified congressional investigators within the past several days that he had completed his interrogation and they were free to proceed.

In apparent anticipation of this timetable, Mr. Walsh wrote the committees in late February that

he had no objection to their granting the woman limited immunity. The committees voted to give her immunity in late February, allowing the mandatory 10-day waiting period to end at about the same time Mr. Walsh finished his questioning.

Earlier in the week, Mr. Walsh appealed to both the House of Representatives and Senate committees to delay for 90 days any decision to grant immunity to Col. North and Rear Adm. John Poindexter, President Ronald Reagan's former national security adviser.

Lawyers for both committees and aides to Mr. Walsh are attempting to work out a compromise on the issue, but no decision is expected for several more days.

One congressional source said Senate investigators were discussing, among possible compromise proposals, a plan for the committees to conduct interviews in closed sessions with those two witnesses and withhold their public interrogation for the 90 days sought by Mr. Walsh.

In a related development Friday, 42 House Democrats urged that the House panel investigating the Iran-contra affair give full study to a private network set up with Reagan administration encouragement to resupply Nicaragua's contra rebels.

In a letter to Representative Lee Hamilton, chairman of the House Committee, the lawmakers cited allegations that the private aid network may have violated U.S. arms export laws or the neutrality act, which prohibits hostile action against any country with which the United States is formally at peace.

The congressional committees

voted earlier in the week to provide limited immunity to Alberto Hakim, a businessman believed to have extensive knowledge and records pertaining to the financial arrangements involved in the secret sale of arms to Iran and apparent diversion of profits to the contra rebels fighting the Nicaragua government.

Sen. Rudman said the Senate committee has been in contact with Hakim's attorney. Other officials expressed confidence that within the next four to six weeks the committee will have acquired extensive knowledge of the financial arrangements, prompting speculation that congressional investigators expect a cooperative witness once immunity has been provided.

Mr. Walsh has informed congressional investigators he will use his prerogative of delaying any limited immunity grant to Hakim for 30 days.

Neither Sen. Inouye nor Sen. Rudman criticized Mr. Walsh for his actions regarding Hakim, but both men made it clear they wish the independent counsel could move more quickly in his own investigation.

They said there were several examples but cited only the case of Ms. Hall.

The White House has acknowledged the Iran affair will be with it for a long time but said President Reagan and his aides would focus on other issues and leave the arms scandal to investigators.

In a pep talk to administration supporters Friday, new White House Chief of Staff Howard Baker said Mr. Reagan's last two years in office were "not going to be caretaker years."

Mr. Baker's comment came after presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater told reporters Mr. Reagan and his top aides were focusing on such matters as arms talks with the Soviet Union, a review of "Star Wars" missile defence plans, and legislation pending in Congress.

Mr. Reagan himself moved Friday to scotch talk of raising taxes to trim the federal deficit as House speaker Jim Wright and others in the Democratic-led Congress have suggested.

Saying his determination to veto any tax increase remained "rock solid," Mr. Reagan added: "All these tax hike schemes have as much chance of flying as a dead duck."

Asked if the president believed he had put the Iran affair behind him, Fitzwater replied: "No. The Iran scandal continues to be investigated by the (special prosecutor). There will be hearings by the House and Senate select committees."

"All indications are that these will go on for several months," he said.

But Fitzwater added: "It's not something that occupies much time in the White House deliberations."

Meanwhile lawyers for Col. North said Friday they would appeal against the dismissal of his lawsuit challenging the special prosecutor's investigation of the Iran arms scandal.

Federal Judge Barrington Parker Friday threw out Col. North's lawsuit seeking to halt the criminal investigation by Mr. Walsh.

Lawyers for Col. North Friday filed a notice that they planned to appeal against Judge Parker's ruling to the U.S. court of appeals in Washington.

U.S. to sign defence accord with Turkey

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States has announced it would sign a defence and economic cooperation agreement with Turkey on Monday, but took care to say it also remained committed to improved relations with Greece.

Secretary of State George Shultz will sign an exchange of letters on the accord with Turkish Foreign Minister Vahit Halefoglu, due in Washington on March 15-19 at Mr. Shultz's request, State Department spokesman Charles Redman said Friday.

Mr. Redman told reporters the letters would be made public after they are signed. The accord is separate from an agreement on U.S. bases in Turkey which was signed last year.

The visit takes place at a time when relations between Athens and Washington have cooled over U.S. military aid to Turkey.

As a result, exchanges between senior U.S. and Greek officials have been postponed, making the Turkish minister's visit all the more conspicuous.

Washington welcomes Syrian role in Beirut but has doubts on outcome

By Carol Giacomo Reuter

WASHINGTON — The Reagan administration, whose forces failed to bring peace to Lebanon, publicly welcomes Syria's intervention in Beirut but neither the U.S. government nor private analysts believe it is a long-term solution.

They are pessimistic that Syria — or anyone else, except perhaps the Lebanese — can restore permanent order to a country so torn by civil war.

Syria deployed 7,000 soldiers into the mainly Muslim sector of the Lebanese capital last month in an effort to halt militia violence.

In 1983, when U.S. Marines were stationed in Beirut as part of a Multi-National Force, President Reagan called Lebanon a vital U.S. interest.

But the administration, under pressure from Congress, abandoned a high-profile, active role after a guerrilla bombing killed 230 servicemen in October 1983.

Today, as they struggle to overcome the scandal created by U.S. arm sales to Iran, Mr. Reagan and his administration have nar-

rowed their foreign policy focus and seem relieved someone else has taken on the task of stopping chaos in a country they have called the key to Middle East peace.

"Really, there's nothing we can do in Lebanon," one U.S. official, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters.

The State Department has declined to criticize Syria's intervention and has emphasized the responsibility assumed by the government of President Hafez Al Assad.

"We'll see what they can do. If order can be brought, that would be a positive development," Secretary of State George Shultz told Congress.

The attitude seems particularly sanguine, given that Syria is the Soviet Union's closest Middle East ally.

At least 25 foreigners, including nine Americans, are held hostage in Lebanon by guerrilla groups and some U.S. officials and analysts hope the Syrians can win their release.

The United States is being cautious in its reaction to recent events as it waits to see what develops, one official told Reuters.

The Syrian intervention "could be good if it brought peace, but the history of Lebanon is such that foreign forces never calmed factional disputes," he said.

Mr. Shultz and other officials — who once were deeply involved in trying to fashion a peace settlement for Lebanon — have in recent months squarely put ultimate responsibility for the future on Lebanon itself.

"There will be no end to it until the people of Beirut and Lebanon as a whole take up their responsibilities as a civilized community to overcome the chaos and factional strife," the State Department said in a remark.

William Quandt, acting director of foreign policy studies at the Brookings Institution, a private research organization, said one interesting development was Syria's apparent willingness to crack down on Hizbollah, a pro-Iranian, anti-American group that has become increasingly powerful among the Lebanese factions.

"It suggests Iran is willing to let its Lebanese ally be tamed by Syria... That would be a positive outcome," he said.

TV & RADIO		WHAT'S GOING ON		FOR THE TRAVELLER		USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.	
JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 77111-19 PROGRAMME ONE 15:30 Korean 15:50 Programme Review 16:55 Health Clinic 17:00 A Whole World of Children 17:30 Raising It All 17:50 Casual Camera 18:15 Local Agricultural Programme 18:40 Local Series 19:20 Local Programme 19:50 Programme Review 20:30 News in Arabic 21:30 Arabic series 21:50 Tomorrow's programmes 22:05 TV Magazine (Arabic) 22:30 News summary in Arabic 22:35 Arabic Series PROGRAMME TWO 17:10 Les Cinq dernières 17:30 News in French 17:50 Probable a la nuit 18:00 News in Hebrew 18:40 Varieties 19:00 News in Arabic 19:30 Who's the Boss 21:10 The Day the Universe Changed 22:00 News in English 22:30 Springfield's Daughter RADIO JORDAN 855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & party on 95.0 KHz. SW Tel: 774111-19 07:00 Light Music 07:30 Newsday 08:00 Morning Show 10:00 News Summary 10:45 Pop Session 11:00 In Concert 12:00 News Summary 12:45 Pop Talk 13:00 News Summary 13:45 Pop Session contd. 14:00 News Bulletin 14:10 Instrumentals 14:15 Science Report 15:00 Concert Hour 16:00 News Summary 16:30 Old Favorites 17:00 News Bulletin 17:30 News Summary 18:05 Jazz Hour 19:00 Newsday 19:30 Date with a Star 20:00 Evening Show 21:05 News Summary 21:55 Evening Show continued 22:55 News Summary		TODAY'S EVENTS EXHIBITIONS * A fine arts exhibition by Egyptian artist Rihy Razzaz at the Royal Cultural Centre (until March 15). * An exhibition of oil paintings by Mrs. Houdyia Lariqi at the Pina Basso Gallery — Wadi Sagar (until March 20). PLAY * Arabic plays for children daily at 10:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre (until March 31). CULTURAL CENTRES Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 6610267 American Centre .. 64571 American Centre Library .. 641320 British Council .. 631478 French Cultural Centre .. 637009 Goethe Institute .. 641993 Soviet Cultural Centre .. 642003 Spanish Cultural Centre .. 624049 Turkish Cultural Centre .. 637777 Hayat Arts Centre .. 651595 Hassan Youth City .. 6671816 Y.W.C.A. .. 641793 Y.W.M.C.A. .. 664251 American Municipal Library .. 637111 Univ. of Jordan Library .. 843335 MUSEUMS "Children's Heritage and Science Museum." Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday. Folklore Museum. Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also movies from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760. Jordan Archaeological Museum. Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabel Al Qul (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays. Jordan National Gallery. Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim coun-		QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (06) 53200-5, where it should always be verified. ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1) 06:00 Agaba (RJ) 06:00 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ) 09:25 Jeddah (RJ) 10:00 Kuwait (RJ) 10:45 Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 16:30 Cairo (RJ) 17:50 New York, Amsterdam, London (RJ) 17:40 Athens (RJ) 18:05 Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ) 18:05 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ) 19:00 Madrid, Rome (RJ) 20:40 Paris, Geneva (RJ) 01:00 Baghdad (RJ) OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2) 06:25 Bucharest (RO) 06:30 Berlin, Larnaca (DE) 11:30 Cairo (DE) 12:45 Kuwait (LN) 13:15 Baghdad (LA) 13:20 Jeddah (SV) 13:50 Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF) 13:45 Kuwait (KU) 14:00 Athens, Damascus (OA) 17:05 Athens, Damascus (OA) 19:10 Frankfurt (LE) DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1) 06:45 Agaba (RJ) 11:00 Vienna, New York (RJ) 11:15 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ) 11:30 Athens (RJ) 11:50 Cairo (RJ) 19:30 Kuwait, Abu Dhabi (RJ) 21:40 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ) 21:40 Jeddah (RJ) 21:50 Baghdad (RJ) 21:55 Damascus (RJ) 21:55 Cairo (RJ) 22:00 Dubai, Muscat (RJ) 22:30 Bangkok (RJ)		EMERGENCIES Amman governorate .. 891228 Amman Civil Defence .. 198, 199 Civil Defence Irbid .. 271293, 273131 Civil Defence Qadisiyah .. 770733 Civil Defence Deir Alla .. 57306 Ambulance .. 192, 77511 Amman downtown fire brigade .. 198 First aid .. 630441 Blood Bank .. 778303 Civil Defence Amman .. 661111 Fire headquarters .. 672000 Police rescue .. 192, 621111, 637777 Police headquarters .. 639141 Traffic police .. 8963901 Electric Power Co. .. 6363814 Municipal water complaints .. 7712568 Queen Alia Int. Airport (06) 5330400. HOSPITALS Hussein Medical Centre .. 813813/2 Khalid Maternity, I. Amn .. 642816 Al-Khalid Maternity, I. Amn .. 642412 Jabel Amman Maternity .. 642632 Malhas, J. Amman .. 636140 Palestine, Shamsi .. 6441714 Shamsi Hospital .. 669131 University Hospital .. 8429495 Al-Munassar Hospital .. 6672219 The Islamic, Abadi .. 66612757 Al-Ahli, Abadi .. 6641646 Hussein, J. Amman .. 7710125 Al-Bashir, J. Amman .. 7711126 Army, Marja .. 89161115 Queen Alia Hospital .. 60224950 Amal Hospital .. 674155 GENERAL Jordan Television .. 7751119 MARKET PRICES Upper/lower price in fils per kg. Apple (All kinds) .. 310 / 270 Banana .. 270 / 270 Banana (Makumona) .. 270 / 270 Beans .. 300 / 400 Broad beans .. 100 / 60 Beetroot .. 80 / 60 Carob .. 70 / 50 Carrot (black) .. 130 / 100 Carrot (yellow) .. 130 / 60 Cauliflower (yellow) .. 30 / 60 Cauliflower (white) .. 140 / 100 Chestnut .. 200 / 400 Cucumbers .. 190 / 140 Eggplant (small) .. 130 / 100 Eggplant (large) .. 110 / 80 Garlic (dry) .. 600 / 500 Grapefruit .. 140 / 120 Lemon .. 120 / 80 Marrow .. 110 / 80 Onion (dry) .. 100 / 60 Onion (green) .. 140 / 80 Orange (All kinds) .. 200 / 120 Radish .. 80 / 60 Peas .. 300 / 60 Pepper (hot) .. 400 / 80 Pepper (sweet) .. 200 / 120 Potato .. 100 / 120 Radish .. 80 / 60 Spinach .. 80 / 60 Tomatoes .. 120 / 80 Turnip .. 80 / 60	

Jordan Times

PUBLISHED BY THE JORDAN TIMES PUBLISHING CO. LTD.
 Registered Office: 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

Refreshing clarity

THE prime minister, Mr. Zaid Rifai, in his wide-ranging interview with newspaper editors on Saturday, clearly set out in unambiguous terms the country's economic status and national priorities. Coming at a time when rumours and speculation are rife about the country's economy, the prime minister's clear and frank answers helped clear the mind of the citizens and set the record straight. On every issue that was raised — government spending, travel tax, the five-year plan, and increased fees on work permits for domestic servants — the prime minister's answers were clear, and pointed to one thing: our economy is not as bad as some portray it to be. He stressed that the recent government measures are aimed at paving the way for solving problems wherever they arise.

The prime minister also warned that it was time for Jordanians to accept the reality that we are not living in the past years of the oil boom in the Gulf and should work towards realigning our priorities and streamlining our economy. Towards this end, said Mr. Rifai, job-oriented education is a must. While agreeing that there are imbalances in the educational structure of the country, the prime minister also explained the work of the concerned councils' towards bringing about a transformation in the system. He warned, however, that no immediate results could be expected because the strategy adopted in this regard was long-term.

All in all, it was refreshing to hear the prime minister explain the situation in straight-forward terms, unclouded by obscure terminology. The situation is very real and it is high time, we Jordanians realised the implications of the issues at hand and how we could help our country continue its march towards progress and development.

The revelations by Mr. Rifai of the soundness of our economy, our currency, and our balance of payments situation were reassuring and should give us confidence that concerted efforts by all of us should see us through to the aspired goals of our country.

Clearly, part of the responsibility lies with us in continuing the remarkable progress our country has made in the past years. We hope that everyone of us understands this and contributes towards further building our country and putting it back on track by cooperating in full with the government.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Hopes for summit

SAUDI Arabia and Algeria have both announced their agreement on the need for holding an Arab summit meeting, because of the significant issues that it would have to discuss. The last summit was held in 1982 and another was scheduled for 1984 but did not take place due to the on-going differences among Arab states which in turn had obstructed all initiatives to achieve solidarity and unity of ranks within the Arab World. A number of voices were raised over the past few years calling for the convening of the long delayed summit, regardless of who would attend, but this call was met with no response. But it seems that now the Arab leaders have found common ground warranting a meeting at the highest level, and it seems that Saudi Arabia has played a leading role in this endeavour. Saudi Arabia has been in touch with the leaders of various Arab countries in the past weeks following the Islamic summit which was held in Kuwait where Arab leaders had the chance to meet and discuss Arab issues. Perhaps the Arab leaders now realise the need for the summit meeting in order to coordinate their countries' stand vis-a-vis the common dangers and threats from the enemies of the Arab Nation. Jordan which has worked relentlessly for convening the summit is satisfied with the new development and sees in it a new chance for the Arabs to mobilise their efforts and confront all challenges and threats to their nation.

Al Dustour: A fresh call for summit

IT was natural for Saudi Arabia and Algeria to issue a call for an Arab summit conference which would see an end to all differences among Arab countries. A communiqué issued by the leaders of the two countries following King Fahd's visit to Algiers should be regarded as significant, specially as it reflects the views of two important leaders who carry real weight in Arab politics and who can actually play a key role in ending differences among Arab leaders. This call for an Arab summit comes just in time, as the Arab World continues to confront serious challenges and threats from the common enemies and in time to help the Arabs work out a new strategy that can effectively serve the interests of the Arab Nation. But first of all the Arab leaders are required to end their differences, and the summit provides the suitable forum where they can do so. There is no doubt that Jordan welcomes this development because it has sought to convene the summit by all means in order to re-establish solidarity among the Arabs. Jordan, more than others, believes in unified ranks and joint action that can help the Arabs secure their rights, and enlist worldwide support for their causes. We view the Algerian-Saudi Arabian endeavour as an important step to end the Arab disputes and a call on all Arab leaders to work seriously and relentlessly towards achieving Arab people's aspirations.

Sawt Al Shaab: A summit for the taking

THE Algerian-Saudi Arabian call for holding an Arab summit has added significance to such a summit and supported current efforts towards achieving it. Arab leaders now seem to be more and more convinced of the need to coordinate their attitudes and their policies with regard to important issues and problems that have been plaguing their nation. The summit, which the majority of Arab states want to convene, is not an objective by itself but a means for the Arab leaders to reach consensus on their future joint action. For this reason, the first step towards the summit should be an end of differences among Arab states because this is essential for a successful meeting and an effective result. We feel that work should be directed and efforts mobilised towards paving the road for the summit before holding it, and we need to have understanding among Arab heads of state before they actually meet in Riyadh to discuss a host of issues of concern to their peoples and their nation. Once this is achieved the Arab leaders can discuss the Gulf war, the Lebanese question and the Arab-Israeli conflict which are the main issues that have been troubling the Arab Nation.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Stop bleeding shareholding companies

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

IT has been widely held by policy makers that shareholding companies are "small governments" and thus are capable of meeting all their financial commitments at all times in addition to having plenty of funds to declare generous dividends.

Perhaps that is why Jordanian shareholding companies are required to pay up to 50 per cent of their profits as income tax, a rate well above the corresponding tax rates currently paid by corporations in the industrialised countries like the United States or Britain. Those countries have realised the importance of tax reduction for encouraging new investments, for expanding old ones and for creating new job opportunities. The marginal tax rates in those countries do not exceed 38 per cent, while the average tax rate is even lower due to various incentives and tax credits.

Like cigarettes and alcohols, whenever more funds are needed for the shareholding companies are the first source to be tapped. Companies would not be allowed to pay any dividends until after they pay 40 to 50 per cent of their profits as income tax, 10 per cent as compulsory reserves, 1 per cent for the universities, 2 per cent for research and development. Before making any profit they have to transfer 10 per cent of the salaries and wages to the Social Security Corporation, and very soon they will have to pay another 10 per cent of the salaries and wages to finance the medical insurance scheme. Let alone the remunerations of the board members and their inflated

transport allowances.

Currently, shareholding companies are passing through very tough circumstances. They are struggling for survival. Total losses sustained by shareholding companies in 1985, for instance, exceeded total profits. Therefore companies are no more an easy source to extract funds from. Companies themselves are starving for cash to keep their heads above the water.

Watching companies being sucked-off, one may conclude that this form of business is not wanted and should therefore be discouraged. The excessive burdens imposed on those companies seem only to serve to compel investors to abandon shareholding companies and concentrate instead on individual small businesses. So far such a policy has succeeded in halting the establishment of new shareholding companies.

However, the declared official policy runs counter to all the above. Officials encourage the establishment of new shareholding companies, which mean new investments, enlargement of productive capacity and the creation of new jobs for the tens of thousands of youths who are seeking employment in vain.

So far, shareholding companies are treated without mercy. They are looked upon as unexploitable gold mines. It is high time to re-examine this serious matter and remove the disincentives which

discourage the formation and success of companies.

The first step we recommend in this direction is to slash corporate marginal tax down to a maximum of 25 per cent. When a company is losing money, or making low profits, it should be exempted from financial burdens which are not directly related to its production effort, such as the 1 per cent university fees, the 2 per cent research and development suggested in the recommended draft of the companies law, medical insurance to staff, and the like, which should be left to the discretion of the management in the light of its financial situation.

Even if shareholding companies could act as a milking cow or a golden egg laying goose, it is not in the best interest of the economy to kill them and extract all the milk or all the golden eggs once and for all.

Correction:

In last week column a mistake was made in estimating the annual proceeds of the Social Security Corporation at JD 120 million and proceeds of municipalities in domestic revenues at JD 100 million. The two figures should in fact read JD 35 million and JD 30 million respectively. This makes the overall tax burden in Jordan around 33 per cent of national income which is still very excessive.

Rifai: Jordan is back on course towards development and progress

(Continued from page 3)

payment. Like the other day, I heard on the call-in radio programme a lady complaining that she was the sole bread winner of the family and keeps a servant who looks after her paralysed father. In this case the government is ready not only to charge the previous fee but to cancel the fee altogether because we are dealing with a humanitarian case here.

But on the other hand, some women complain by saying that they work in order to supplement the meagre income of the family, but I say that some of these women pay half or even three quarters of their salaries for keeping the servant who in turn transfers the money abroad. Does the remainder of the salary justify all this spending? There is a third category the wealthy people of Jordan whose women do not work outside home but are also complaining. What they have to pay is merely JD 7 a month extra — the cost of one handmaiding or a bouquet of flowers etc.

As to the issue of allowances for extra work and overtime, I am sorry that many did not understand the government's decision about it. It was meant to put an end to a procedure whereby some employees who were paid to do extra work in addition to what they normally do between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. did not actually do what they are required to do. They used to consider the extra pay as an extra income to improve their living condition without doing work in return. What the government meant by the new measure was to control the overtime work and so control the extra and unwarranted spending.

Q: What you said about the increased fees for domestic servants is a good measure, but people are questioning the wisdom of imposing fees on tourists upon their departure from the country. This measure could backfire on the country which is trying to attract tourists. How do you view the situation?

A: The government has been charging departure fees for visitors who could be businessmen or coming to see friends but it will not charge any fees on groups of tourists. A group means 15 persons coming to spend some time in Jordan and these are exempted. In addition, the government is re-considering previous decisions concerning the following categories and will issue new regulations in the coming future:

Jordanians leaving to work abroad, specially Arab Gulf region, who eventually will send back earnings to be invested in Jordan and those who come to Jordan from the Gulf to visit their families. All these will be treated differently from those travelling to Europe for pleasure.

Q: Does the government plan to impose fees on solar heaters?

A: The government has never thought of such a thing. Indeed we thought of taking an extra measure to encourage people to use solar heaters because it will save energy.

Q: Some people who are used to keeping a domestic servant for necessary work would now opt to employ Arab servants but these will also transfer hard currency to their countries. What is your view about that?

A: The law requires the payment of JD 150 for non-Arab domestic servants but not for Arab servants, and if the situation requires that in the future the laws and regulations will be amended accordingly. But, for the time being, the existing law and regulations will be put into force.

The government heard some people complaining when the fees were raised for non-Arab servants, and had this been applied to Arab servants as well the complaints would have been greater, and greater still if the domestic servants were hamed altogether.

Q: According to rules Jordanian universities should accept students in the light of their (awji) average but the universities often do not follow the set rules. Do you not think this is violating the rules of Justice?

A: There are no exceptions but what the universities do is to assign a certain percentage of the seats for specific sectors like the children of Armed Forces personnel, those serving in the Ministry of Education, and those working at the universities, students from the occupied West Bank, students coming from Islamic countries and students from different provinces of the Kingdom, like the Badia and rural regions etc. This is done to give the chance to all categories and try to make it possible for less fortunate people to acquire higher education on the same level of others. In this case, we consider the measure justified.

Q: Our students abroad spend a lot of money, but if they are allowed to obtain education here they would save a lot of hard

currency for the country. Don't you think of expanding the university education base in Jordan to absorb more students?

A: We started off with one university. Then we opened Yarmouk University and then Mu'ta University and the University of Science and Technology. We also have 52 community colleges and allowed the private sector to establish a private university. But no-one has applied to open (an advanced) university (today) though the chance exists for such a project. The question is not to have more universities but rather whether we want all students to get university education. I agree that a lot is being spent abroad for teaching students at foreign universities and the country spends millions more annually on teaching students here. Our Jordanian society has a complex called university degree and many believe that their children should obtain such degrees. We are trying to reexamine this situation and the educational policy at large. We will give more emphasis on vocational and technical education.

Q: What has the ministerial committee on handling the unemployed people done, and what will the government do to link education with the needs of the community?

A: We only have unemployment in certain specialisations and not a general unemployment problem. We have 40,000 unemployed (22,000 male and 18,000 female) citizens but at the same time we employ 120,000 non-Jordanians in different trades. Most of the unemployed are college graduates. We are now trying with all our might and without any exception to give all vacant jobs to Jordanians and we do not allow non-Jordanians to have priority over Jordanian citizens. However, we have certain types of occupations which are shunned by Jordanians though they are unemployed. This forces us to employ non-Jordanians. The non-Jordanian workers are here because no Jordanians want their place and for this reason Jordanians seeking employment remain idle. Hence we see that a reduction of spending is no more lucrative and cannot serve as a means for income.

The committee which is handling the issue of unemployed people has held several meetings and issued several recommendations which are now under consideration before putting these recommendations into force. There are short-, medium- and long-term recommendations and the government plans to offer training to graduates and then try to re-organise work with the intention of employing two persons to do the work of one.

Q: There has been some complaints about awarding projects to foreign firms. What is your view about this?

A: We are in constant touch with the contractors union and we have been making it clear that we give priority in projects to Jordanian contractors. In some cases when we get financing from Arab and international funds, these sources insist that contacts be floated internationally and they do not want us to restrict projects to Jordanians alone. But we insist that a Jordanian firm should enter as a partner and that only Jordanian workers should be employed. Otherwise priority is always given to Jordanians.

Sometimes the government is forced to offer a tender to a foreign firm for reasons related to Jordan's exports to that country of that particular firm. For example, Jordan's phosphate exports to India, the largest importer of Jordanian phosphates, is estimated at \$150 million annually and we do not import anything from India in exchange. We only import \$2 million worth of goods annually and the Indian government complains about this unfavourable balance of trade between the two countries.

At the same time India receives offers from Morocco, Canada and the USA of phosphates at lower prices than ours and in exchange for importing Indian goods for the same amount. But India says that due to the unique relationship between Jordan and India and because Jordan is nearer to India it would like to see things going on smoothly and the relationship continuing but Jordan has to import more Indian goods. For this reason, we gave priority to an Indian firm to carry out two projects which will cost us only \$30 million when we are exporting \$150 million worth of phosphates to India. But there is no rivalry between local and foreign firms in any way.

Q: We notice that there has been a reduction of spending the implementation of the 1986-1990 five-year plan. What is the reason for that? Are all the funds for the plan available?

A: There has been no drop on the part of the government in the

amounts of funds for the first year of the plan. There was some hesitation from the private sector which failed to invest sufficient funds in the first year of the plan for reasons connected with economic situations that have been prevailing in our region. As to the implementation of the whole plan, a continuous study is being made with the financiers, and we try to obtain loans to carry out projects, in addition to those projects directly financed by the Jordanian treasury.

Q: What was the result of your efforts in urging Kuwaiti investors to invest in Jordan and what was the response so far? Also, it is said that local banks have JD 2,000 million in deposit. What is the government's plan to encourage people to invest these funds in projects in order to stimulate the economy?

A: We have taken a number of measures to encourage foreign and Arab people to invest in Jordan and we have promised Arab investors that they would have the same treatment as Jordanians in this respect. We have also allowed investors total freedom to move their profits and their capital in and out of the country. I found a real desire from the Kuwaitis to invest in Jordan. They asked about the areas for investment and we provided them with the information about the projects. We agreed to organise a meeting in Kuwait next month to explain all about these projects which need capital and investment.

In Jordan, banks have deposits of nearly JD 2,000 million, part of which is being invested in buying government bonds for financing economic projects. We are trying to encourage people to invest in projects by creating profitable climates for their investments and giving people investment opportunities and removing all obstacles in the way of investments.

Q: Why did not the government reduce prices of oil products and cement when their prices have dropped world-wide?

A: When oil prices were high internationally the government used to subsidise oil products. The government paid JD 254 million in oil subsidy between 1976 and 1985 for the sake of keeping the price down for the public. The price of oil is fluctuating all the time; it might go up to \$25 a barrel and fall to \$15 the next day.

The government has thus resorted to other forms to help the

public. It has reduced the price of fuel oil used in factories and the products are now costing less. It reduced the price of electricity and water to help the largest sector of the population.

Q: Some people are apprehensive of the increasing amount of foreign debt. Can you assure us about that?

A: Debts can be measured by the ability of each country to repay the loans and the interest on these loans and the service on those loans. The red line is reached if the government has to pay 20 per cent or more (of the exports) as interest and service annually on the total loans. In Jordan, we have reached 14.9 per cent only.

We have committed ourselves to paying our debts in instalments hoping to continue to get Arab financial aid as decided on at the Baghdad summit. But we did not receive all the commitments and so the government found itself forced to pay for the loans it obtained in the early 1980s. Now we are trying to keep the ceiling of our loans as low as possible and the amounts of loans are gradually dropping.

At present Jordan owes JD 902 million, some of which are easy loans, some are commercial loans and the rest are guaranteed by the government. We have to be careful about two things: first that the treasury should be in sound shape so that it can shoulder its duty towards dealing with other countries and the public in Jordan as well so that it can preserve its credibility.

The second point is to preserve an acceptable amount of foreign currency as a reserve for the Kingdom. This gives us stability and guarantees to meet our external commitments.

All the government's economic and financial measures should be viewed in this perspective. All measures that serve the country's interests are taken regardless of the reaction from the public.

Q: What is the Kingdom's present foreign currency reserves? and to what extent does this affect the value of the dinar?

A: I have heard rumours that the dinar is stronger than it is really worth and I do not know the motives or the sources of these rumours because they do not reflect the reality. Jordan had JD 781 million in gold reserve but this increased to JD 822 million in 1986. We achieved a saving in the balance of payment estimated at JD 35 million in 1986.

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Can an accountant who's never made a programme run the BBC?

By Edith M. Lederer
The Associated Press

LONDON — Plagued by controversy, accused of anti-government bias and facing an explosion of competition, the British Broadcasting Corp. has chosen a virtual unknown to be its director general.

When Michael Checkland beat five other candidates for the top broadcasting job in Britain, there was a scramble for information about him, and every newspaper printed the same three-year-old photograph — the only one in his files.

Checkland has never made a radio or television programme, instead, he rose through BBC ranks via the behind-the-scenes finance and management route. Even after being named deputy director to Alasdair Milne in 1983, he was little known outside the corporation.

Milne resigned in January, saying his decision was for personal reasons. But a British newspaper reported he resigned under pressure from the board of governors because of controversies that included two libel suits, police seizure of a segment on

Britain's first spy satellite and charges of anti-government bias in BBC reports on the U.S. attacks on Libya.

Checkland, named acting general director, was so impressive during his four-week stint, the board of governors said, that he won the job over higher-profile rivals with impressive broadcasting credentials.

He takes charge of a publicly funded organisation of 25,400 employees with a budget of 933 million pounds (\$1.46 billion).

The BBC is one of Britain's major institutions, blanketing the land with commercial-free radio and television and beaming widely respected radio programmes abroad. But it is at a contentious period in its 65-year history.

Media observers reacted with caution and some dismay to Checkland's appointment of Feb. 26. The Times of London urged boldness, saying he must not revert to "his accountant's caution." Michael Leapman wrote in the London Daily News that choosing an accountant over senior broadcasters was "a safety-first choice that is sure to be reflected on our screens."

In his first news conference, the 51-year-old Checkland insisted that he is more than just an accountant, saying that for the past 10 years "I've been concerned with making programmes happen, getting the resources for them."

Right now, the BBC has only one major television rival and no national radio competition. But with a fledgling cable TV service already operating, satellite broadcasting on the horizon and the government recommending the creation of three national independent radio networks, he will face tough decisions about how — or whether — the BBC can meet the competition.

"The central task of the new director general is to take (the BBC) from a cozy and highly successful monopoly system, in which half the national audience has been handed to it on a plate, into a world of unregulated free market forces," said Nigel Ryan, another candidate for director general.

Checkland said he was ready for change.

"We have to keep the quality of programmes up in a period of

change. The BBC is not going to be in everything. We want to form a partnership with change, not oppose it," he said.

He gave more clues to his thinking in a speech to a conference on broadcasting eight days before his selection.

"Education, information and entertainment will drive the BBC on into the 21st century," he said. "We must be steady, confident and mean in using the massive resources still at our disposal, and bold and brave in choosing our priorities."

The new director general — nicknamed "Checkbook Checkland" — said Britain should be proud of the BBC. "Criticism it by all means and regularly — we do so ourselves daily," he said.

But Checkland, apparently referring to the controversies that reportedly led to his predecessor's resignation, warned that "deliberate and sustained attacks day by day" would ultimately weaken the BBC. If weakened, he said, the innovation, risk-taking and investigative journalism would diminish and the country's democratic process would be poorer.



Michael Checkland: The DG with the vision of a leaner and fitter BBC

Woman sets off in solo bid to reach North Pole

By Betzi Woodman
Reuters

WARD HUNT ISLAND, Canada — A diminutive 40-year-old American, accompanied only by eight sledge dogs, has set out across the Arctic ice aiming to become the first woman to reach the North Pole by land.

Pam Flowers, a former medical worker who lives in Wasilla, Alaska, set out last weekend from this remote Canadian outpost on a journey that will last at least two months.

Flowers admits to being obsessed with her objective.

During the long trek her only contact with humans will be a daily radio conversation, if conditions permit, with base camp manager Kate Persons at Resolute, a weather station and far-north airport in Canada.

Flowers is also carrying a radio beacon which will keep her in regular contact with two polar orbiting satellites. This contact will help keep her on course, along with her traditional magnetic compass and sextant readings.

"I will know when I am there (the pole) because the beacon can pinpoint me within a few feet of my position on the ice. There's no way I can cheat," she said prior to her departure.

Flowers must complete her journey by mid-May at the latest because the 24-hour Arctic sun, which comes with the vernal equinox in mid-March, will make the ice too broke and mushy to traverse beyond that date.

The straight-line distance to the pole from her starting point is 765 kilometres, but Flowers expects she will travel at least 1,600 kilometres as she detours around open water and obstacles such as ice pressure ridges as high as 15 metres.

The polar ice can open up at any time, creating anything from a tiny crack to a fissure a 1.6 kilometre or more wide. If they are narrow enough, she can use her sledge as a bridge. If they are wider, she can make a pootoon bridge of ice slabs.

"Sometimes I will just wait," she said.

Flowers, who is 152 cm tall and weighs 43 kilograms, is using a light, flexible sledge based on an old Eskimo design.

The sledge is 4.25 metres long, 86 cm wide and has especially angled three-metre runners. It will not easily flip, which is important since she is travelling alone.

When loaded with gear and food, the sledge weighs about 2770 kilograms, which is more than Flowers can move over high ridges. The best way, she says, is to go around. Failing that, she will chop a passage through them or build platforms and ramps with slabs of ice.

Ice conditions alone will not

determine how far she goes in a day. The intense cold is another factor. Temperatures can get as low as minus 65 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 54 C) and, when accompanied by a 35 or 40 mile per hour wind, it becomes the equivalent of minus 150 degrees (minus 100 C).

The cold will affect all Flowers' activities, slowing the process of feeding and watering the dogs — which must be doctored four times a day — and tending her own needs.

Flowers will eat high-calorie foods — a half a pound of bacon a day with all fat absorbed by potatoes, sausage and logan bread, which is made with eggs, oats, and fruits, each slice providing 450 calories.

Fresh-baked logan bread and other food supplies will be delivered by air at predetermined food drops scheduled for every 14 to 17 days as weather permits.

Dehydration is a constant worry for both Flowers and her dogs. The snow contains little moisture, and gathering and melting it takes hours.

The dogs, with a higher metabolism than humans, can gulp snow without harm to assuage their thirst. Flowers carries tea or liquid jello for herself in a special bag to keep it from freezing.

The dogs, Siberian Huskies, are insured to sleeping in the open on burlap bags. The sledge carries with its gear booties made of hunting with velcro fasteners to put on the dogs' feet when the ice is sharp.

With approval from the widow of Naom Uemura, who made the first and so far only solo surface trek to the North Pole, Flowers is dedicating her trip as a memorial to the Japanese adventurer, who died in 1984 climbing alone on 6,166-metre Mt. McKinley in Alaska.

It was an article by Uemura, also a person of small stature, which fired Flowers' desire to leave her life of "collecting fine furniture and become an apprentice to the Arctic."

She quit her job as a respiratory therapist, sold her belongings, and began training for the odyssey. She headed north and in the past eight years has racked up more than 22,500 kilometres of winter sledge-dog trips, most of them alone. These include last year finishing the Iditarod, the gruelling 1,770 kilometre sledge-dog race across Alaska from Anchorage to Nome.

She says the first thing she plans to do when she gets home will be to "shower, eat a box of bon-bons and buff my nails."

Theo she'll get busy writing up the experiments and scientific readings taken on the trip and begin a book about the adventure. After that, she plans to start raising money for her next solo expedition — to the South Pole.

A softer Rambo may even start thinking

By Ronald Clarke
Reuters

LOS ANGELES — Rambo may be getting soft, Sylvester Stallone is changing the script to make the character who launched a one-man invasion of Vietnam more realistic and less of a cartoon.

"Sly is afraid the public will not buy the Rambo they know one more time," an aide to Stallone said. "He is going to bring Rambo more into the real world, give him more depth, maybe even make him start thinking about world issues instead of blasting everything that moves."

One important reason for the change is the film "Platoon," a stark, realistic infantryman's view of the Vietnam war which received eight Oscar nominations and is topping the U.S. box office takings.

Stallone believes this is a sign that audiences, particularly American audiences, want more realism in their films.

Stallone's latest film, "Over the Top," the saga of a muscle-bound truck driver who goes in for arm wrestling, is in only fourth place in the U.S. box office ratings, a relative failure for the world's top box office draw.

In addition to "Platoon," the unheralded "mannequin," starring comparative unknowns Andrew McCarthy and Kim Cattrall, and "Outrageous Fortune"

starring Bette Midler are also ahead of Stallone in the box office race.

"Mannequin" is showing in less than a thousand theatres, compared with 1,800 showing Stallone.

The story of a man who falls in love with a bewitched shop dummy, "Mannequin" cost only six million dollars to make, whereas "Over the Top" cost \$25 million.

Stallone, estimated by United Artists studio executive Lee Rich to have grossed more than one billion dollars at the box office, has usually had an opening weekend box office of more than \$15 million.

But "Over the Top" took \$5.1 million on its opening holiday weekend.

Ten years after Stallone's first movie, "Rocky," won an Oscar for best picture, film experts are wondering whether Stallone is going to have to change his image to end a style of acting described as shoot oom, mumble later.

In "Rambo: First Blood Part II," Stallone had only 163 lines, less than two a minute.

He fought for the American way of life as boxer Rocky Balboa in the "Rocky" series, rescued American prisoners from Vietnam in the "Rambo" series and, as cop Mariou "Cobra" Coblotti, wiped out crazed killers whom the rest of the police force wanted to leave alone in "Cobra."

In "Rambo," Stallone favoured poison arrows or bowie knives when he did not have a gun handy. The film received a million dollars worth of free publicity when President Reagan, in a microphone test heard by reporters when he was preparing for a speech on the release of 59 American hijack victims in Beirut, declared: "Boy, after seeing 'Rambo' last night, I know what to do next time."

In "Cobra," Stallone poured petrol over a victim after telling him: "You have the right to remain silent."

It has been a heady journey for the man born in the tough hell's kitchen area of New York, who cleaned out lion's cages and worked as a cinema usher for six years while looking for acting jobs.

To the recorded sound of a trumpet fanfare, Stallone announced at a news conference last May that he had signed a multi-million dollar agreement with United Artists to make 10 films in the next six years and to star in at least five.

"They will all be in a very energetic role," Stallone said then.

But some film analysts say the time may be coming when Stallone will be able to make the film that has been a lifelong ambition: The story of the brooding poet and author Edgar Allan Poe.

Theft critical problem for archaeologists

By Carl Manning
The Associated Press

BELIZE CITY, Belize — The beaded jade necklace glistens in the sunlight as a middle-aged Belizean holds it up for inspection by a visitor who casually expressed an interest in ancient Maya artifacts.

"Now, if I was in the business of selling, I might be able to get \$2,500 for it," the man says. "Maybe for you, it would be no more than \$1,500."

In the United States, he says, it might sell for up to \$10,000 at a major auction house.

The man never says the piece is for sale, or whether it is a genuine Maya creation. He will say, however, it was found in a cave.

That, plus its appearance, its estimated value and the man's reluctance to have his name revealed all suggest it is real, available and looted.

For selling any looted Maya artifact, the man could be fined \$5,000 and imprisoned up to five years by the government of this small Central American nation, where every artifact is crucial to recreating the history and decline of the mysterious civilisation.

"The problem of looting has increased tenfold in the past five years. There is no way to say just how much has been taken out of the country," archaeology commissioner Harriot Topsey said in

an interview at Belmopan, the capital built in the middle of the jungle about 50 miles west of Belize City.

"Sometimes it is sold on the open market, which adds an air of legality to a very illegal business," he said.

More than 600 Maya sites have been found in Belize, Topsey said. He believes there could be 600 more awaiting discovery under the green jungle canopy that covers much of the country, which is nestled into the Caribbean coastline between Mexico and Guatemala.

Many of the steeple artifacts are from the Mayas' classic period, A.D. 300-900, but the oldest Maya sites in Belize date back to 2500 B.C.

For maximum research value, the sites must be found intact, Topsey said. A bowl made in the pre-classic area, if found in a classic-period village, for example, might change scientists' ideas about when the village was settled.

"An object taken from its original location is out of context, and then you lose whatever information that might have been gotten," Topsey said. Furthermore, "many looters destroy what is at the site to get at the items that can be sold."

Most of the stolen objects go to collectors in the United States, Topsey said. Belize, a nation 174 miles long and 68 miles wide with

a population 162,000, simply does not have enough police to curb the thefts, he said.

"If you had the whole police force, you still couldn't stop it because you need other countries like the United States working to stop it," Topsey said. "Only by international cooperation can you stop it."

Small artifacts such as pots and figures that fit into suitcases and pockets are hardest to protect, although some looters resort to bizarre methods of trying to spirit the items out of the country.

One would-be smuggler cut up a stela — a stone column covered with Maya glyphs — and tried to carry it out of the country in 11 suitcases, said Winnel Branche, another government archaeologist.

"It was all the weight that gave it away. It was a pretty ridiculous thing to try to do," Ms. Branche said.

Sometimes looters become victims. In early February two Guatemalan men died in a remote area of northern Belize when a section of Maya mound they were looting collapsed, a coroner's report said.

Objects from the classic period are often found in the caves that dot Belize, Ms. Branche said. The Mayas considered the caves gateways to the underworld, and placed bowls of food in them as offerings to the gods, she said.

SMOOTH OPERATOR

"We have a couple of unpaired strips on our network which can be tricky, especially in winter and with crosswinds. But the SE347's low-pressure landing gear and 35-knot crosswind capability gives us no worries."

Don Kendall, Managing Director, Kendall Airlines, Australia



SAAB

SE347 Linköping, Sweden

Saab Aircraft International Ltd, Lowry House, 14, Grosvenor Street, Windsor, Berks SL4 1BA, U.K. Tel: (0753) 879991 Telex: 545121 SWIN G

Watford shatters Arsenal's dream of 3 English titles

LONDON (AP) — Arsenal's dream of winning all three English soccer titles was shattered Saturday when it was beaten 3-1 at home by Watford in the quarterfinal of the F.A. (Football Association) Cup.

Meanwhile, the two Merseyside clubs, Liverpool and Everton, moved further away from their north London rival in the league by winning their games. Champion and standings leader Liverpool won 3-1 at Oxford United while second-placed Everton beat Southampton 3-0 at home.

The results meant Liverpool maintained its six-point lead over Everton and moved ten points clear of third placed Arsenal, which has two games in hand.

In another cup game, Coventry City gained the semifinal for the first time in its history by winning 3-1 at Sheffield Wednesday.

Arsenal's sixth round game against Watford ended in controversy and unruly scenes on and off the field.

The home side, which will meet Liverpool in the final of the Littlewoods Cup at Wembley next month, took the lead through Ian Allinson.

But the visitor roared back with goals by England international Luther Blissett and John Barnes, before Blissett scored a controversial third in the last minute.

The linesman's flag went up

with the ball in the Watford area and play continued with Arsenal fans shouting for a penalty. It could have given their side an equaliser but, instead, Blissett took the ball to the other end and scored Watford's third.

The Arsenal players drew the referee's attention to the linesman, but after the two officials consulted, referee Brian Stevens awarded the goal.

Amid angry scenes after the final whistle, one linesman was seen to be ducking to avoid missiles thrown from the stands and Arsenal's England international midfielder, Steve Williams, was involved in a heated exchange with Watford's manager, Graham Taylor.

At Sheffield, Coventry took the lead through Cyril Regis only for Gary Megson to level soon after half time. But the visitor clinched a semifinal place with two strikes by Keith Houchen.

Two more quarterfinals ties take place on Sunday. Wimbledon hosts Tottenham Hotspur while Third Division Wigan Athletic receives Second Division Leeds United.

Wigan claims Gorbachev as fan

WIGAN, England (AP) — English Third Division club Watford said Saturday it was counting on the support of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev when it takes on Leeds United in an F.A. (Football Association) Cup quarterfinal on Sunday.

Wigan's general manager, John Fillingham, said he expected Gorbachev to sit by his radio wearing his Wigan hat and scarf cheering on the little north English club in its bid to reach a Wembley final for the first time in its history.

Fillingham said the club understood the Soviet leader took a keen interest in its fortunes.

"News of Mr. Gorbachev's passion for our club was leaked in the Bangkok Post in January, so we sent him a complete set of our supporters' kit. Everybody knows the reason the Soviets stopped jamming the (British Broadcasting Corporation's) world service was so Mr. Gorbachev could follow the football league results, and in particular Wigan's performance," Fillingham said.

Davis Cup roundup

Australia splits singles with Yugoslavia

NEW YORK (AP) — Defending Davis Cup champion Australia, playing on a grass court in Adelaide, split its first-round World Group singles against Yugoslavia. Pat Cash of Australia downed Bruno Oresar 9-7, 6-4, 7-5 and Yugoslavia's Slobodan Zivonjovich stopped Wally Masur 6-8, 8-6, 9-7, 12-10.

Sweden, which has reached the final the last four years, winning in 1984 and 1985, also split its two singles with Italy. Sweden's Mats Wilander swept Simone Colombo 6-2, 6-3, 6-0 after Italy had won the first singles Friday when Paolo Canè surprised Mikael Pernfors 1-6, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4. The best-of-five match competition is being played in Prato, Italy.

Israel gained a stunning 2-0 lead over Czechoslovakia after Miloslav Mecir went down in four sets to Amos Mansdorf and injury forced Milan Srejber to retire in the fifth set against Shlomo Glickstein.

A nervous Mecir showed none of the form which propelled him to victory over the world's top-ranked player, Ivan Lendl, in the International Players Championships at Key Biscayne, Florida last Sunday. A confident

Mansdorf won 6-4, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3. In other World Group matches Friday, it was Argentina 1, India 1; West Germany 1, Spain 0; France 2, South Korea 0; Mexico 2, Britain 0, and Chile 1, Commonwealth Caribbean 1.

Wimbledon champion Boris Becker gave West Germany its first point as he outlasted Emilio Sanchez of Spain 6-4, 7-5, 5-7, 3-6, 6-3. The second singles match, between Eric Jelen and Spain's Sergio Casal, was halted by darkness with Casal leading 6-4, 7-5, 5-7, 3-6.

In New Delhi, India, veteran Vijay Amritraj lifted India into its tie with Argentina, downing Horacio De La Pena 9-7, 6-3, 6-3 after Argentina's Martin Jaité defeated India's Ramesh Krishnan 1-6, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-3.

Although France won both of its first-day singles matches in Marcq-En-Baroeul, France, neither one came easily. Guy Forget stopped Jin Sun-Yoo 6-3, 5-7, 6-3, 6-3 and Thierry Tulasne needed more than two hours to defeat Bong Soo-Kim 6-4, 6-2, 6-3.

France's top two players — Yannick Noah and Henri Leconte — are sidelined with

injuries, although Noah may play in the doubles.

There were numerous zonal matches played Friday. The zonal winners will advance to the World Group in 1988.

In the Eastern Zone first round, the Philippines took a 2-0 lead over Sri Lanka, Hong Kong won both its singles matches against Malaysia, Pakistan jumped out to a 2-0 advantage over Bangladesh and Indonesia and China split its two first-day singles matches.

In a second round African Zone battle, Zimbabwe took a surprising 2-0 lead over favoured Kenya.

At Nassau, Bahamas, in a first-round American Zone match Bahamas' Ricardo Acena whipped Douglas Burke of Jamaica 6-3, 6-3, 9-7 to give his country a tie with the Commonwealth Caribbean team. Earlier, Bahamian Roger Smith outlasted Chile's Robinson Ureta 12-10, 7-5, 2-6, 7-5 to give the Commonwealth Caribbean the first point.

Mexico moved within a victory of eliminating Britain with Francisco Maciel beating Jeremy Bates 6-3, 6-2, 7-5 and Leonardo Lavalle taking Andrew Castle 6-2, 3-6, 6-2, 6-3, at Mexico City.

Soviets win gold medal in ice dancing competition

CINCINNATI, Ohio (R) — Natalia Bestemanova and Andrei Bukin of the Soviet Union, skating like Broadway dancers, won their third consecutive gold medals at the World Figure Skating Championships.

For the third year in a row Marina Klimova and Sergei Ponomarenko were runners-up to their teammates.

Canadians Tracy Wilson and Robert McCall repeated as bronze medalists, but with a stronger performance this year. Six of the nine judges gave

Bestemanova and Bukin perfect scores of 6.0 for artistic impression. They received four 5.9s and the rest 5.8s for technical merit. Skaters from the Soviet Union also won the gold and silver medals in the pairs competition.

Bestemanova and Bukin's strong victory Friday night left them the favourites to win the gold medal in ice dancing at the 1988 Olympics.

The gold medalists finished the three events in the ice dancing competition with 2.4 points.

Lloyd-Turnbull advance to doubles final

MARCO ISLAND, Florida (R) — Chris Evert Lloyd and Australian Wendy Turnbull survived two tiebreakers to advance to the finals of the \$400,000 Women's Team Tennis Championship doubles tournament.

The second-seeded team of Lloyd and Turnbull struggled to a 7-6, 7-6 semifinal win over unseeded American Betsy Nagelsen and Robin White.

Also advancing to the final were the unseeded team of American Lori McNeil and Bettina Bunge of West Germany.

U.S. edges England in athletics meet

COSFORD, England (AP) — The United States, sparked by a national-record performance by the 1,600-metre relay team, edged England in the sixth annual Kodak Classic indoor track and field meet, where two-time Olympic champion Sebastian Coe said he probably would not compete in the 1988 Games.

Clarence Daniel set a meet record in the 400 and ran the first leg of the U.S. relay quartet, which was clocked in 3 minutes, 6.01 seconds, .02 seconds faster than the U.S. mark set by the University of Southern California in 1980 and .11 slower than the world indoor best of 3:05.90, set by the Soviet Union in 1970.

In a meet full of second and third-string athletes, the biggest cheers went to the biggest home-team names. And one of them, Coe, made big news.

Coe, the two-time Olympic 1,500-metre champion from England, took the 3,000 metres at 7:54.33, in his only appearance of the indoor season and received a standing ovation from the capacity crowd of 4,000 at Cosford Royal Air Force Base.

Afterward, he said lapses in training this year had cost him

valuable conditioning and that, plus a desire to get away from the 800 and 1,500 he has run in previous games, probably had ended his Olympic career.

"I'm 99 per cent not to go" to the Seoul Games, Coe said. "It's mostly because I don't particularly want to. I want to concentrate on 5,000 metres."

In an invitational race that did not count in the standings, Britain's Kirsty Wade set a Commonwealth record in the women's 2,000, at 5:45.81 seconds. And Merlene Ottey-Page of Jamaica stumbled in the final stretch but still set an England all-comers record of 23.21 in the women's 200 invitational.

The Americans took the team championship by 75 1-2 to 73 1-2, starting fast and enduring a mid-meet surge by the home team. They lead the series 4-2.

Daniel led from start to finish to successfully defend his title in the 400, the first track event of the evening, with a time of 46.47 seconds, .05 faster than the mark he set a year ago.

The United States lead swelled with victories in the 60 hurdles by Albert Lane in 7.82 and Olympic bronze medalist Thomas Jeffer-

son in the 200 at 21.35.

Jefferson had a shot at a double victory as he defended his 60-metre crown, but England's Ernest Obeng shot out of the blocks and led all the way to win in 6.72, with Jefferson second in 6.78.

That followed Coe's victory in the 3,000, just .01 slower than the meet record and personal best the English star set a year ago.

Brian Abshire of the United States was second in 7:55.49 and Brian Diemar, a bronze medalist in the 1984 Olympic steeplechase, was third in 7:56.81.

Coe, who missed scheduled indoor appearances earlier in the season because of the flu, jetted into the lead on the first turn of the final lap, blazing the final 200 metres in 27.27. With a half-lap to go, he turned his head to make sure no one was gaining on him.

The tide continued to run the English way in the 1,000, as Tony Morrell beat teammate Peter Elliott by five yards to win in 2:22.31.

But in the 800, Randy Moore of the United States held off a strong charge from England's Andrew Myatt to win by three yards in 1:50.25.

France's Fignon wins 5th stage of Paris-Nice race

ST. TROPEZ, France (AP) — France's Laurent Fignon won the fifth stage of Paris-Nice cycling race but Ireland's Stephen Roche retook the overall lead heading into the final two days.

Fignon won the 208-kilometre (130-mile) stage between Toulon and the French Riviera resort of St. Tropez in 5 hours, 3 minutes, 54 seconds and received a 10-second bonus.

Ireland's Sean Kelly, seeking his sixth straight Paris-Nice victory, was second, seven seconds behind. A pair of Frenchmen, Eric Boyer and Roman Pensec were next with Roche close behind, all in the same time as Kelly.

Roche moved into the overall lead with an advantage of 24 seconds over Kelly. France's Jean-Francois Bernard, who was first after the fourth stage, finished more than two minutes behind.

The Irishman made a break early in the race and built up a two-minute lead. He was joined by a group of five others. Fignon made his move in the last mountain pass about 23 kilometres from the finish. He was able to win comfortably over Kelly.

The next stage is a 163-kilometre (100-mile) section to Mandelieu. The race ends Sunday with a stage to Nice and a time-trial up a mountain to the village of Eze.

Italy's Nati takes vacant European title

FORLI, Italy (R) — Italy's Valerio Nati took the vacant European featherweight crown after the referee stopped his fight against France's Marc Amand in the second round of a scheduled 12-round contest.

The fight started fast and furiously with both boxers landing hard punches and Amand displaying a threateningly long reach.

But in the second round a left-hander from the 30-year-old Italian opened up a gaping cut under Amand's right eyebrow. The referee called in the ring doctor who judged the cut too serious for the bout to continue.

Nati, the "Tiger of Forli," was making his 11th European appearance in front of a noisy hometown crowd.

The European Boxing Union named Nati and Amand to fight for the title after it was left vacant in January by Jim McDonnell,

By Charles J. Hanley
The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — Just 18 months before the Olympic torch is lit in Seoul, South Korea's rival political factions are entering the final, critical rounds in a world-class bout of brinkmanship.

The outcome of the match-up between the military-dominated government and the main opposition party will set the mood for the 1988 Seoul Summer Games — and set South Korea's political course for years to come.

Some in the opposition talk ominously of Olympic disaster next year if the generals this year deny them the kind of permanent democracy they want.

"The Olympic Games would not be possible," one well-placed member of the opposition New Korea Democratic Party asserted in an interview. "The people of Korea would disavow the Olympics."

Knowledgeable observers are skeptical. Korean pride in staging the sports extravaganza would overwhelm any attempt at a boycott by the political opposition, they say.

But the U.S. embassy, always influential here, is nonetheless pressing both President Chun Doo-Hwan and his rivals to reach a compromise soon, to end decades of authoritarian rule and take the tension out of the Olympic countdown.

One proposal the Americans view favorably: establishing an interim, "reconciliation" government of all parties to guide this U.S.-allied nation of 41 million people through next year's nervous days in the camera eye of the world.

If Seoul's political plans are shaky, its Olympic preparations are solid. South Korea's ruling generals have taken on the task like a military campaign.

Across the half-mile-wide Han



Main venue for Olympics: Seoul Sports Complex

River from central Seoul, on flatlands where silk worm plantations once flourished, a landscaped collection of stadiums and gymnasiums has taken shape. Only indoor swimming pool and housing for Olympic athletes and the visiting press remain uncompleted.

An eight-lane Olympic expressway has been laid down along the Han's southern banks. Seoul's new subway system has been extended. Some fire-roofed slums, considered eyesores, have been demolished.

In their eagerness not to offend Olympic tourists, the authorities have even ordered restaurants serving "health stew" — a traditional Korean favourite — to move to premises away from main streets.

And as usual in this heavily policed state, the security blanket is thick.

Dozens of policemen, many armed with M-16 automatic

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Lendl undergoes knee surgery

WASHINGTON (AP) — Tennis star Ivan Lendl underwent arthroscopic surgery in Los Angeles to remove torn cartilage in his left knee, his agent announced. The native of Czechoslovakia who lives in Greenwich, Connecticut, suffered the injury in a second-round match at the International Players Championships in Key Biscayne, Florida, last week. The surgery was performed Wednesday. Solomon said Lendl will miss next week's Panewebber Classic in Orlando, Florida, and probably miss the Volvo Tennis-Chicago Tournament and the WCT finals in Dallas before returning to action.

Brazil to play 4 friendlies in Europe

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Brazil will play four friendly matches in Europe in May as part of the preparations for this year's South American Championship, scheduled for Argentina in June, the Brazilian Football Association (CBF) said. It said the Brazilians will play their first match against England at London's Wembley Stadium on May 19. The other matches will be against Ireland on May 23 in Dublin, May 26 in Glasgow against Scotland and May 28 in Helsinki, against Finland. Two other friendly matches are pending confirmation, on May 16 in Miami, against the United States, and on June 1, either in Copenhagen, against Denmark, or in Tel Aviv, against Israel, the report said.

Chinese body building contest to be held

BEIJING (AP) — The fifth Hercules Cup national bodybuilding contest will be held next fall in Tongling City in eastern China, it was reported Friday. Zeng Weigui, director of the Body Building Sport Committee under the Chinese Weight-Lifting Association, said the sport had won the support of the general public in China, according to a report in the China News Service. Women bodybuilders at the fourth Hercules Cup national bodybuilding contest, held in the southern city of Shenzhen last year, caused a furor when they wore bikinis for the first time. The attire was approved by the government so Chinese bodybuilders would conform to international bodybuilding contest rules.

11 fans charged over ferry violence

HARWICH, England (AP) — Eleven soccer fans, arrested on a North Sea ferry last August, are to appear in court accused of fighting, theft and criminal damage, police said. Fighting broke out between West Ham United and Manchester United fans on the Dutch ferry Koninkin Beatrix, which was taking the fans from Harwich to the hook of Holland for pre-season exhibition matches in the Netherlands. The incident was seen here as having a large bearing on this week's decision by UEFA, soccer's governing body in Europe, to keep English clubs out of European competition for at least another year.

FURNISHED FLATS FOR RENT

Fully-furnished one bedroom and two bedroom flats, w/w carpet, colour T.V., central heating, telephone. Two locations, Jabal Amman, near Fifth Circle and Abdali area.

Phone: 673768, 672842 after 2 p.m.

FOR RENT Modern furnished flats

One bedroom — or two bedrooms. Best location with Panoramic view, central heating and telephone. Location: Jabal Amman, near 3rd Circle.

Tel: 641443, 642351

WANT TO RENT

American family wants to rent a furnished 3-4 bedroom villa or apartment with a garden between the Third and Eighth Circles or Shmeisani area.

Please call 665161/2 — Room 417/Dr. Eastman

FOR SALE

Complete photographic darkroom for colour and B & W Bessler enlarger, timer, trays, books, etc. (No cameras). Studio lights. Intelligent computer terminal RS-232C.

Call: 811647

APARTMENT FOR RENT

A second floor apartment consisting of two bedrooms, sitting room, salon and internal utilities with central heating.

The apartment is located near the Marriott Hotel.

Call: 662672

Cinema Tel: 677420

CONCORD

TOP GUN

Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 625155

RAINBOW

WEIRD SCIENCE

Performances 3:15, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 675573

OPERA

BODY ROCK

Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 677420

PLAZA

RAW DEAL

Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 622198

RAGHADAN

MY LUCKY STARS

Performances 12:15, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bahraini, Dutch firms form joint venture

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — ABC Investment and Services Co. E.C., a subsidiary of the Bahrain-based Arab Banking Corporation, and Kooijman Effectenkantoor N.V., a Dutch-based stock-broking firm, agreed to form a 50-50 joint venture, an announcement said Friday. The new firm, named ABC-Kooijman Capital Markets N.V., is to be based in Amsterdam, with an authorised capital of 12.5 million Dutch florins (\$6 million), said a press release. The firm will engage in a wide range of investment banking activities such as management buy-outs, mergers and acquisitions, securities underwriting, stock exchange introductions and money management, the release said. The new company will commence business in June.

IDB to lend Algeria \$9 million

JEDDAH (OPECNA) — The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) is to extend \$9 million loan to Algeria to help finance its cotton imports. The loan agreement, signed here last week, specifies that the imports come from an IDB member country. The accord was signed by IDB Vice President Ousmane Sekk, with Mr. Saied Mirsad, director general of the Algerian Cotton Industries Corporation, and Mr. Abdul Qadeer Humoodi, representing the Central Bank of Algeria. This brings total IDB assistance to the country over the past seven months to \$74 million.

Insurance firms lose on space mishaps

ROME (R) — The world's insurance companies have lost 400 billion lire (\$303 million) paying out on failed space projects, the president of one of Italy's leading insurers said last week. Mr. Enrico Randone, president of Assicurazioni Generali, told a conference that companies had earned some 800 billion lire (\$606 million) from premiums for space projects but had paid out damages of 1,200 billion lire (\$909 million). "In the last 10 years the international market has seen negative results for the sector," Mr. Randone told the conference on the insurance of commercial activity in space. "The situation got even worse in 1986 because of the Challenger disaster and other failed launches," he said.

YOUR DAILY
Horoscope
from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Today can bring annoyances and upsets that require attention, so do them in a careful fashion. Later you are able to enjoy your surroundings and gain vitality.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Handle that myriad of tiny tasks and then make your surroundings more charming. Be with good friends.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You want to have a good time today, but little problems come up. Take care of these and all goes fine for you.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) The home situation is not pleasant, but say nothing. This will relieve tensions and all should improve there.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Be particularly careful while driving. Get rid of that moodiness and smile more.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Find a more efficient way of handling your daily duties. Study your property and plan any needed improvements.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Get rid of that feeling of discontent and you can be with a charming group of friends for some fun.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Get rid of a limitation and later you can be with the one you love and be happy together.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Concentrate on how best to be of assistance to a good friend who is having a little trouble now.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A worldly affair could be upsetting, but relax and it dissolves itself very quickly.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) A new interest may seem hard to get into, but later you can easily delve right into it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You want to get out of a promise you have made, but wait until later when the influences are much better.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Steer clear of an associate who is very talkative and likes to nag. Later you can be with persons you truly enjoy.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he, or she, will always be looking for errors here and there and find them and correct them. He, or she, will be a perfectionist and be of great assistance to any employer. Send this one to the best schools and add psychology to better understand the motivations of others.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarizes trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, March 7, '87 and ending Wednesday, March 11, '87. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Banking and financial institutions					
Industrial Development Bank	50	64	1.280	1.270	1.000
Petra Bank	6450	15379	2.400	2.260	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	1224	2566	2.100	2.100	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	18168	29791	1.670	1.620	1.000
Jordan Gulf Bank	15841	20631	1.310	1.320	1.000
Housing Bank	1750	2755	1.580	1.580	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	1000	2000	1.850	2.000	1.000
Cairo Amman Bank	141	4124	29.500	29.250	5.000
Bank of Jordan	66286	1342705	22.000	19.150	5.000
Arab Bank	670	85897	130.000	129.000	10.000
Jordan National Bank	14076	35219	2.500	2.460	1.000
Jordan Finance House for Development	32250	24603	0.750	0.760	1.000
Islamic Investment House	79050	85889	1.620	1.560	1.000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	50900	38494	0.740	0.770	1.000
Finance and Credit Corporation	12590	17465	1.400	1.390	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	14481	8576	0.590	0.590	1.000
Jordan Securities Corporation	10900	9841	0.910	0.900	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	102655	154804	1.300	1.460	1.000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	—	—	—	—	2.000
Al Mashrek Exchange	—	—	—	—	10.000
Insurance and reinsurance					
Jordan French Insurance	25109	102035	4.150	4.000	1.000
REFOCO Life Insurance	174	148	0.880	0.830	1.000
Jordan Insurance	1700	19950	11.900	11.500	1.000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Yamouk Insurance and Reinsurance	11169	12095	1.050	1.100	1.000
Holy Land Insurance	1000	1010	1.000	1.010	1.000
Arabian Sea Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Philadelphia Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Union International Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jerusalem Insurance	113224	15548	1.320	1.350	1.000
Petra Jordan Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Gulf Insurance	38720	30227	0.790	0.780	1.000
Universal Insurance	300	231	0.690	0.770	1.000
General Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Eagle Insurance	—	—	—	—	10.000
Middle East Insurance	—	—	—	—	10.000
Al-Ekhar Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Ahliah Insurance	1000	1300	1.280	1.300	1.000
Services and industries					
Darco for Housing and Investment	34434	20252	0.590	0.580	1.000
Real Estate Investment (Aqarco)	25563	11248	0.440	0.440	1.000
Management and Consultancy	—	—	—	—	1.000
General Investment	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Leasing Corporation	1331	904	0.700	0.680	1.000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	37723	6211	0.670	0.660	1.000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Telco	75742	35778	0.960	0.960	1.000
Jordanian Electric Power	7306	10840	1.480	1.490	1.000
Irbid District Electricity	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab International Hotels	58425	26118	0.460	0.440	1.000
Hotels and Tourism	—	—	—	—	1.000
George Owens Federation Office	23800	21192	0.900	0.890	1.000
Jordan National Shipping Lines	32963	13827	0.430	0.420	1.000
Dar Al Shab Press, Printing and Publishing	19070	22293	1.170	1.170	1.000
Jordan Dairy	32076	68017	2.120	2.120	1.000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	10444	87137	0.860	0.860	1.000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	2710	6450	2.400	2.380	1.000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	7299	10730	1.470	1.470	1.000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Intag)	1824	8694	4.700	4.750	1.000
Alaskin Industries	31837	30573	0.970	0.980	1.000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	213953	312359	1.440	1.490	1.000
Jordan Woollen Mills	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Ceramics	5629	5639	1.010	1.000	1.000
Chemical Industries	2750	2982	1.090	1.090	1.000
Jordan Industries and Match (JIMCO)	4100	2009	0.490	0.480	1.000
Dar Al Daw' for Development and Investment	4207	5785	1.380	1.370	1.000
National Steel Industries	125868	265435	2.160	2.100	1.000
Universal Chemical Industries	8400	7276	0.850	0.870	1.000
General Mining	2300	4115	1.800	1.750	1.000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	3257	36546	6.940	6.970	5.000
Jordan Lime & Brick	50506	13405	0.270	0.260	1.000
National Industries	56630	38448	0.680	0.670	1.000
Arab Paper Converting and Trading	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Woollen Industries (JWICO)	—	—	—	—	1.000
Livestock and Poultry	1000	760	0.720	0.760	1.000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	19750	24115	1.240	1.220	1.000
Rafia Industrial for Plastic Bags	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Paper and Cardboard	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Rockwool Industries	10900	4183	0.410	0.410	1.000
Trans-Jordan Minerals Research	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Himeh Mineral	—	—	—	—	1.000
Orient Dry Batteries Factory	—	—	—	—	1.000
Woolen Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Tanning	1080	1892	1.800	1.820	1.000
Jordan Printing and Packaging	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette	—	—	—	—	5.000
Jordan Brewery	—	—	—	—	1.000
Max Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Center for Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Cable & Wire Manufacturing	32350	29888	0.930	0.920	1.000
Jordan Spinning & Weaving	4000	2456	0.620	0.610	1.000
Jordan Industrial Investment Corporation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Sulphur Chemicals	31872	72672	2.520	2.490	1.000
Jordan Cement Factories	92657	96213	1.040	1.040	1.000
Grand total	1,972,979	4,023,359			

Industrial nations must aid poor states, IMF chief says

WASHINGTON (AP) — The industrialised countries must keep their interest rates down and their markets open to imports if poor countries are to reduce their debts, the new head of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) says.

"We cannot have two standards of adjustment — one for industrial countries and the other for developing countries," Mr. Michel Camdessus said in a speech published in the March 9 issue of IMF survey. The speech was delivered at a symposium on Feb. 15 and provided to reporters Friday.

Mr. Camdessus, a Frenchman, took over in January as managing director of the IMF, which is owned by 151 governments. Poor country debts are estimated at well over \$1 trillion. Brazil, the biggest Third World debtor, last month suspended interest payments on most of the \$108 billion it owes. "Industrial countries can and should provide crucial support by following sound monetary and fiscal policies that are compatible with healthy non-inflationary growth of world demand, lower international interest rates, and an appropriate pattern of exchange rates," Mr. Camdessus said.

In addition, he said, they should roll back protectionist measures and provide increased official development assistance and export credits.

Mr. Camdessus said it would be difficult for debtor countries to cut debts until they can increase their earnings from exports faster than the real interest rate on the debt.

In recent years the main job of the IMF has been to organise loans for poor countries in financial trouble in exchange for adoptions by their governments of policies more favourable to private enterprise.

Mr. Camdessus echoed his predecessor, Mr. Jacques De Larosiere, and U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker in urging more loans to poor countries by commercial banks. Such countries are making major changes, he said.

"But this progress is put at risk when there is inadequate support and understanding from creditors — to say nothing about endangering their own claims on these countries," he added.

On the other hand, the head of the Inter-American Development Bank said Friday that some Third World countries will default on their debts if commercial banks continue to take back more money in repayments than they put out in new loans.

"For the banks it's convenient to be repaid," Mr. Antonio Ortiz Mena, president of the bank, told a news conference. "But they have to take into consideration that to achieve that, the countries need to grow."

"If they don't grow, they won't be able to repay. So if the banks continue to extract money from the countries without permitting them to (borrow the money they need to) invest, the consequence is that later on there are going to be defaults," he said.

Third World countries, including Mr. Ortiz Mena's native Mexico, owe well over \$1 trillion. Under older definitions, some are already in default although the default has not been officially declared. Bolivia, for example, has made no payments for years on a debt estimated at \$5 billion.

Mr. Ortiz Mena said Brazil's action avoided a deterioration that would have inevitably led to a long-term default.

The bank, which is owned by 44 governments, calculates that since 1982 Latin American governments have been sending more money abroad than they have been receiving, a reversal of traditional relations.

The bank estimates that in 1984 the average Latin American produced \$1,758 worth of goods. Between 1983 and 1985, it found that more than four per cent of that — about \$60 per person — was sent abroad.

Mr. Ortiz Mena cited two Latin American countries which have limited their foreign payments, Brazil and Peru, as having had the best records of growth last year.

Mr. Ortiz Mena said that Peru had the money to increase its investment and so was able to show growth.

"I don't know what's going to happen this year," he said. "But last year they put their money into investments and growth took place."

Most other Latin American countries had either stagnant economies or even had to reduce their living standards, he said.

Ecuador adopts austerity programme, reaffirms suspension of interest, debt

QUITO (R) — Ecuador, hit by an earthquake that killed at least 300 people and disrupted the economy, Friday announced a tough austerity programme and reaffirmed its decision to suspend debt payments to private foreign banks.

President Leon Febres Cordero, who has in the past made debt payment a matter of honour, said during a visit to the zone hit by the quake on March 5 that the country did not have the funds to service its \$8.16 billion debt.

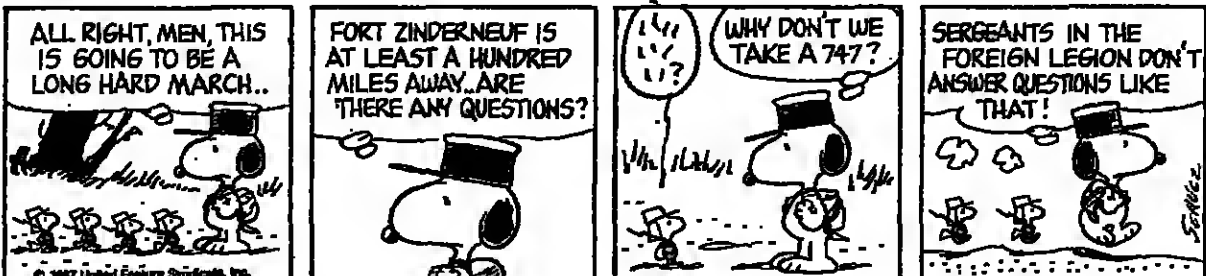
Quvedo announced austerity measures including budget cuts of up to 10 per cent, a government hiring freeze and reductions in salaries of top officials, including the cabinet and president.

An information ministry communique quoted the president as saying: "We have to ratify this suspension... on debt service to the private international banks because physically and materially we don't have (the means) to pay. I'm not ashamed to say it, there definitely isn't a way to pay," he added.

President Febres Cordero said he had previously held that Ecuador was obliged to make debt payments when crude oil was at \$26 per barrel because the government had projected plans with crude prices at that level.

"All legitimate debt is a commitment of honour," he said.

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



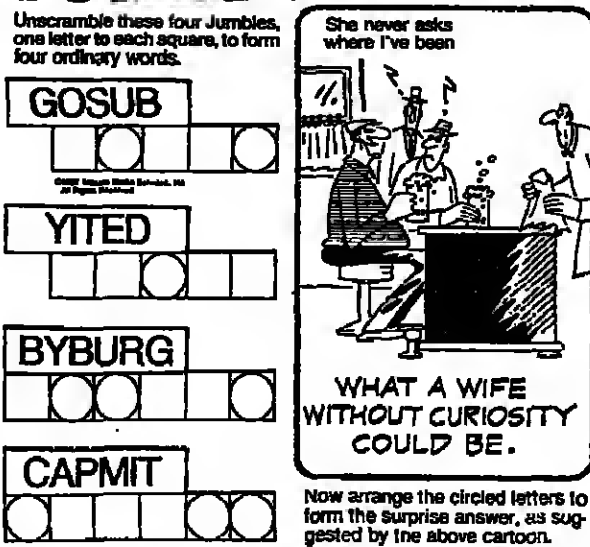
Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

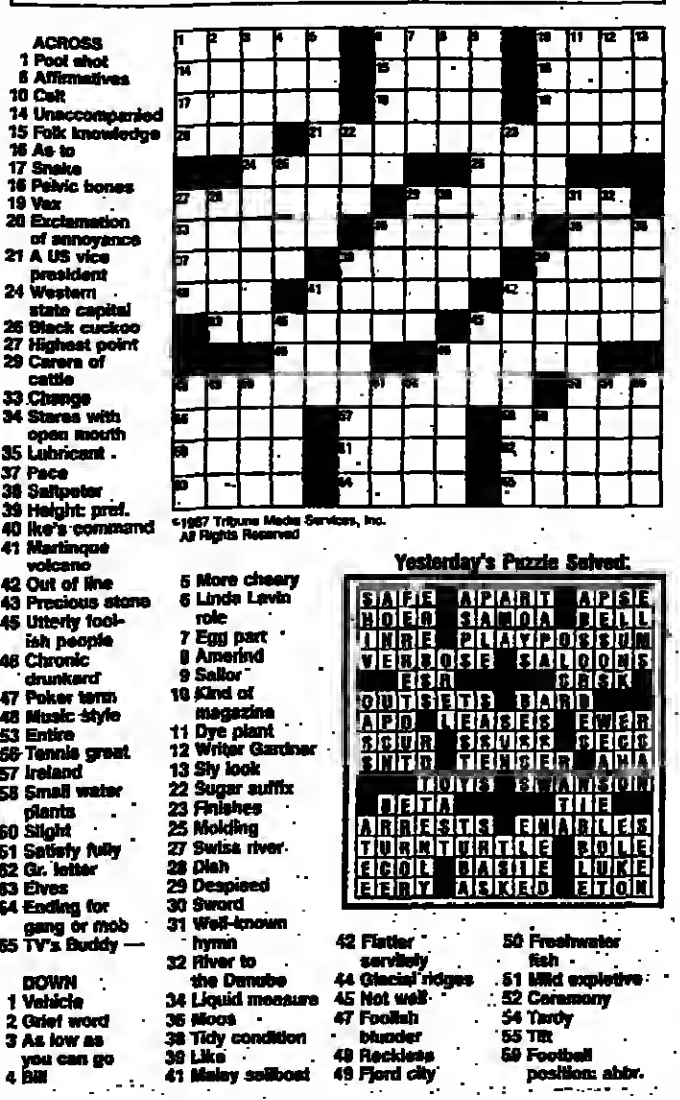


JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Print answer here: A _____ (Answers tomorrow)
Yesterday's Jumble: DAILY ENVOY PALATE HECTIC
Answer: What an impossible con man is — A NEAT CREAT

THE Daily Crossword by Harvey L. Chew



Kremlin assures Soviets 'past mistakes will not be repeated'

MOSCOW (AP) — The Kremlin told Soviet citizens Saturday that most of the work still lies ahead in building the nation into a vital economic power, but assured them "the past mistakes will not be repeated."

The address by the Communist Party Central Committee headed by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev covered the front page of all major national newspapers and opened the hourly newscasts of Radio Moscow.

It was issued in connection with this year's 70th anniversary of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution. An accompanying decree announced that preparation of the anniversary are under way.

The Central Committee's address to the people heralded the accomplishments of socialism, declaring the revolution "the most outstanding event of the 20th century."

"We do not have exploitation of man by man. We do not have

address said. "Only the first steps have been made. Most of the work is still ahead."

"Are there guarantees that the work will get along, that the process of change will not stall, that the past mistakes will not be repeated? Yes. There are. The people are interested in reorganisation," the party leadership stated.

Reorganisation is the term used to describe Mr. Gorbachev's campaign for broad changes in Soviet society that are aimed at accelerating economic growth and improving living standards.

The effort is being met by some resistance, as illustrated in frequent media reports about failure by many industries to meet their output targets or to produce goods that measure up to tougher quality-control checks that began on the first of the year.

Mr. Gorbachev, in recent speeches, has also referred to

ideological resistance by those who fear his reforms deviate from socialist principles.

The Central Committee address may have been an effort to set out before the people an image of unity within the party leadership. It may also have been intended to dampen speculation among some Soviets that Mr. Gorbachev could face the same fate as Mr. Khrushchev if he tries to change the system too radically.

Mr. Khrushchev was ousted by the Central Committee on Oct. 14, 1964, after a slight cultural "thaw" and failed efforts to improve farm and industrial output.

The address asserted the Kremlin is "demonstrating a realistic and flexible approach to international problems." It said the Kremlin will press for a ban on weapons in space and for the reduction and ultimately the elimination of them on earth.

Argentine general refuses to testify on rights abuses

BUENOS AIRES (Agencies) — An Argentine general has refused to testify on human rights violations during military rule and defended the government's actions during the "dirty war" in which 9,000 people disappeared, court sources said.

Gen. Juan Bautista Sassián told the court in Cordoba, north west of Buenos Aires, that the trials of military officers charged with human rights violations were a continuation of the leftist revolution, they said.

The sources said the court would probably order Gen. Sassián's preventive arrest pending trial on Monday.

Gen. Sassián was called to testify in connection with the death in October 1976 of 13 prisoners held in a jail in Cordoba, where Gen. Sassián was head of the army's Fourth Airborne Infantry Brigade. He later became federal police chief.

Gen. Sassián is accused of sign-

ing transfer orders for the prisoners. The army said they died trying to escape but relatives have charged they were shot by a firing squad.

Argentina was ruled by a military junta from 1976 to 1983. The Argentine supreme court unanimously rejected Friday night a request by the country's highest military tribunal that it be allowed to resume jurisdiction over trials of military officers accused of human rights violations.

The five supreme court justices ruled that request filed by the Supreme Military Council, questioning the competence of civilian courts in trying military men, was "manifestly improper."

The ruling cleared the way for federal courts in several cities, including Buenos Aires, Bahia Blanca, Cordoba and Mendoza, to continue with trials and hearings involving approximately 200 military officers.

Former U.S. presidential counselor to head Intelsat

WASHINGTON (AP) — Dean Burch, a former Republican national chairman, counselor to President Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford, was chosen to become director general of Intelsat.

Mr. Burch, 59, was selected over candidates from Brazil, Australia and Finland for the post by the board of directors of the International Telecommunications Satellite Organisation (Intelsat). The appointment is subject to ratification by the Intelsat's assembly of parties next month, the agency announced.

Mr. Burch, chairman of the Federal Communications Commission from 1969 until 1974, will become the chief executive and legal representative of the communications cooperative, which

has 113 member nations. Intelsat owns and operates 16 orbiting satellites which help form a worldwide communications system.

The Comsat Corp., the U.S. signatory to Intelsat, nominated Mr. Burch last month. Comsat Chairman Irving Goldstein, in a statement released by the company, said "Burch has demonstrated a clear understanding of the challenges facing Intelsat and he's an excellent choice to take charge of that organisation and lead it through these difficult times."

Mr. Burch, a communications lawyer for 30 years, was chairman of the Republican National Committee from 1964 to 1965. A decade later, he served as counsel to Mr. Nixon and then, after Mr. Nixon's resignation, to Mr. Ford.

6 killed, 1 missing in U.S. Air Force crash

SPOKANE, Washington (R) — A U.S. Air Force KC-135 tanker plane crashed at Fairchild Air Force Base during a training flight, killing at least six people, an air force spokesman said.

Five people on the plane and a serviceman on the ground were killed and another person on the plane was missing, Captain Bob Ballew said.

The plane crashed in an open field behind hangars at the base

west of Spokane, Capt. Ballew said.

The airplane normally operates with a crew of four. Airman 1st Class Teresa Tracy, a spokeswoman at the base, said she did not know why six were aboard.

Kathleen Binford, who was shopping at the base exchange, said she saw the plane dive to the ground and burst into flames after it had taken off and appeared to be turning.

Poll shows Nakasone's popularity has plummeted

TOKYO (AP) — A newspaper survey published Saturday indicates support for Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone has plummeted to 25 per cent amid increasing criticism of his proposed new sales tax and more defence spending.

The survey by the nationwide daily Asahi Shimbun said the number of people who back Mr. Nakasone, leader of the long-ruling Liberal Democrats, fell from 39 per cent of those surveyed in December to 25 per cent in March.

That was the lowest point since Mr. Nakasone became prime minister in November 1982. The newspaper has conducted 22 public opinion polls since Mr. Nakasone took office.

The newspaper attributed the sharp decline in his popularity to opposition to his proposed tax package and planned increase in

the government's defence spending in the budget for fiscal 1987, beginning in April.

It said that the survey, conducted on Wednesday and Thursday, disclosed that 82 per cent of the 3,000 eligible voters polled opposed the proposed implementation of a 5 per cent sales tax.

Sixty-one per cent were against the increase of the defence budget beyond a long-observed ceiling of 1 per cent of the gross national product, the survey said.

Support for the Liberal Democratic Party slipped 7 per cent during the three-month period to 48 per cent, according to the survey. The major gainer, according to the survey, was the largest opposition party, the Socialist Party, which it said moved up to 24 per cent, the highest in a decade.

Finnish Greens set for major election advances

HELSINKI (R) — Finland's "Greens" benefiting from the political fallout of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in the neighbouring Soviet Union, appear set for major advances in weekend parliamentary elections.

The environmentalists hold just two places in the outgoing parliament, but opinion polls say they could gain as many as 10 new seats in the elections, scheduled for Sunday and Monday.

In Moscow Friday, Soviet authorities said people held responsible for the Chernobyl disaster will stand trial soon in Kiev, capital of the Ukraine.

Environmentalist movements have already benefited from the "Chernobyl factor" in elections in West Germany and Austria, and Finnish Greens could find themselves with a cabinet portfolio after the elections.

Juha Penttinen, vice-president of the Centre Party, which belongs to the outgoing centre-left coalition, told Reuters the Greens would be able to negotiate a cabinet seat if their vote increases five-fold, as the polls predict.

The Greens have not so far organised themselves into an official political party but their leading ideologist, academic Osmo Soini-vuorio, said the group could consider joining a future coalition government.

The polls predict a close finish to the elections, with any combination of left-centrist-conservative coalitions still possible.

Greens supporters say other ecological disasters in Europe, like pollution of the North Sea and the Baltic and chemical pollution of the River Rhine, has strengthened their position.

But they admit that Chernobyl, only 1,200 kilometres from Helsinki, has prompted a massive boost in support for environmentalist movements demanding that reliance on nuclear energy is curbed.

The polls predict losses for Prime Minister Kalevi Sorsa's Social Democratic Party, Finland's largest, and gains for the Centre and national coalition parties — but the forecasts are that the Greens will make the biggest strides.

U.S. vows to continue fight against organised crime

NEW YORK (R) — U.S. authorities have vowed to continue their fight against organised crime after the unexpected acquittal of a man accused of being one of New York's mafia bosses.

The pledge by U.S. Attorney Andrew Maloney came after John Gotti — who prosecutors said was the head of the Gambino crime family — and six co-defendants were found innocent Friday of conspiracy and racketeering charges.

Mr. Maloney said he was disappointed by the verdict.

"We live in a country of rules and procedures and our criminal justice system and the jury have spoken," he said.

our determination to vigorously pursue those who terrorise our community and violate our laws."

The acquittal of Gotti came as a blow to authorities who recently won convictions against four of New York's five crime families in the "Pizza connection" drug smuggling case.

So confident were prosecutors that tough anti-corruption laws would help fight the mob that Rudolph Giuliani, chief of federal prosecutor in New York City, predicted the end of the mafia in the United States within 10 years.

He said not only were new laws making it easier to win convictions but sociological changes in the Italian-American community made the mafia less attractive.

CIA reportedly obtained advanced Soviet copter

NEW YORK (AP) — The CIA has obtained at least one of the Soviet Union's most advanced helicopter gunships, enabling the United States to learn ways of countering the aircraft's defences, according to a broadcast report.

At least one of two Mi-24 Hind-D helicopters flown into Pakistan by defectors from the Soviet-supported Afghan army in 1985 was turned over to the CIA, NBC nightly news reported, quoting unidentified Pentagon sources.

The sources said the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has figured out how to "outsmart" the defensive system of the Mi-24 by making changes in the Stinger anti-aircraft missile for use against it, NBC reported. As a result, the network said, intelligence specialists report that re-

bels in Afghanistan have been able to shoot down many Mi-24s over the past six months.

A CIA spokeswoman, Sharon Foster, asked about the NBC report, said: "We would not confirm or deny an alleged intelligence activity."

The Mi-24 Hind-D is currently the Soviet Union's most advanced chopper gunship and is referred to by the Pentagon as a "flying tank." It is heavily armed and armoured, capable of speeds approaching 200 mph, and considered a significant threat to ground forces.

According to Jane's All the World's Aircraft, the Mi-24 is a twin-engine helicopter that carries a four-barrel Gatling gun in an undernose turret and various types of rockets and missiles mounted on "wings."

Remains of Filipino rebel execution victims found

DAVAO, Philippines (R) — Villagers dug up skeletons of seven more alleged victims of rebel executions in southern Philippines Saturday and the military said the number of bodies found could rise to 200 from the current toll of 70.

The seven were dug from shallow graves in the foothills of Bahangin, a village on the fringes of the former rebel stronghold of Davao city, Lieutenant-Colonel Frank Calida, district military commander, said.

Col. Calida, accompanying journalists to the site, told Reuters discovery of the seven — two of them women — brought the toll of bodies found in the past two weeks to 70, adding that the seven appeared to have been buried about six months ago.

He said the 70 remains, scattered in eight villages on the city's outskirts, were those of so-called deep penetration agents of the military or civilians suspected by guerrillas of being military informers.

Local Communist leaders said last year they were "cleansing their ranks of military informers."

Amnesty seeks freedom for women in U.S. jail

HARLINGEN, Texas (R) — Amnesty International has begun a worldwide letter-writing campaign to seek the release of a pregnant Texas woman jailed for helping Salvadorans enter the United States illegally, a spokesman for the human rights group has said.

Steve Herrick told reporters Stacey Lynn Merkt, a 31-year-old lay church worker, is the first prisoner in the United States to be adopted by the London-based group since 1979.

Amnesty International said in a statement it believed Merkt had been convicted of breaking U.S.

laws that "directly facilitate the violation of human rights."

A federal jury sentenced Merkt in February 1985 to six months in jail and three months probation for conspiring to transport illegal aliens.

Herrick said Merkt helped Salvadorans migrating to south Texas in the belief they faced torture or death if they returned to their war-torn homeland.

Omer Sewell, district director of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS) in Harlingen called the campaign "an insult to the American judicial system."

Chile criticises U.N. Human Rights Commission

SANTIAGO (R) — Chile's military government has dismissed criticism of its human rights record at the annual meeting of the U.N. Human Rights Commission as hypocritical and political.

"I believe this result reflects the high degree of political influence in the vote, as well as hypocrisy and injustice," Foreign Minister Jaime Del Valle told reporters Friday.

The 43-nation body, meeting in Geneva, unanimously approved Thursday a Mexican motion saying Chilean authorities were ineffective in preventing mistreat-

ment of civilians.

The motion also said authorities had not properly investigated and prosecuted "those responsible for numerous unresolved cases of murder, abduction, disappearance and torture."

The commission had earlier rejected by a narrow margin a U.S. resolution accusing Cuba of holding up to 15,000 political prisoners.

Mr. Del Valle said Chile would have to reassess its policy of cooperation with the commission in the light of the vote.

Global plan urged to give women more say in politics

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Geraldine Ferraro, Democratic Party candidate for vice president in 1984, called on women leaders from 42 nations to design a "global blueprint" to give women a greater role in politics.

Ms. Ferraro said in a speech at the first Eleanor Roosevelt International Caucus of Women political leaders that "more women in government would mean stronger voices on issues that impact greater on women."

She noted that women hold only 5 per cent of the offices in the world's democracies.

"We are here together in San Francisco to design a global blueprint to change that," Ms. Ferraro said. "We are here to define practical ways women can play a greater role in the political life of their countries."

The participants in the three-day gathering include cabinet members from several countries, ambassadors, lawyers and members of national legislatures and parliaments.

Ms. Ferraro, a former member

"Hopefully, this will be the beginning of a future for women in policy-making positions," she said.

Philippines President Corason Aquino said in a videotaped message that she found it "consoling and reinforcing to know that there are forums like this caucus and that in the male-dominated fields of government and statesmanship, I am not alone."

Victoria Chitepo, Zimbabwe's minister of natural resources and tourism, said she hoped the conference would provide concrete suggestions for "strategies to assist the effective role of women in politics and government."

She said she was one of only two women among 26 ministers in Zimbabwe's cabinet but regarded that as an achievement for such a young republic.

COLUMNS 7&8

Stolen gold sold back to owners

LONDON (AP) — Jeweler John Palmer melted down gold stolen in Britain's biggest robbery and then sold it back to its unsuspecting original owner, a prosecutor told the opening of Palmer's trial. Palmer, 36, and co-defendant Christopher Weymen, 35, have pleaded not guilty to handling gold bullion in connection with the November 1983 robbery of a security depot at London's Heathrow Airport. Six gunmen escaped in vans laden with more than 3 tons of pure gold, then worth \$39 million. Authorities have recovered only 11 of the 6,800 stolen gold bars. Prosecutor Nicholas Purnell told the central criminal court that Palmer controlled the sale of stolen bullion back onto the legitimate market by melting it down with other precious metals to disguise it. "The very losers were deceived into buying back the gold, believing it was genuine gold for sale on the legitimate market," the prosecutor said.

U.K. opens tunnel to save lives of toads

HAMBLEDEN, England (AP) — On a damp and misty morning in the Thames River Valley, Lord Skelmersdale stood in a muddy field with a toad in his hand to open Britain's first purpose-built toad tunnel. The 10-inch (25-cm) diameter underpass under a busy country road will save the nocturnal creatures from being crushed by traffic. "I'm delighted to open something that is the very first. It's a unique occasion," said Lord Skelmersdale, parliamentary under-secretary of state for the environment. He applauded the Fama and Flora Preservation Society for "getting this project under the ground" outside Hambleden village, 56 kilometres west of London.

Voyager 2 changes course

PASADENA, California (R) — The spacecraft Voyager 2, more than three billion kilometres from Earth and speeding towards the planet Neptune, fired its thruster rockets to avoid a possible collision in space. "Everything seems to have gone well and Voyager 2, which has already flown past Jupiter, Saturn and Uranus, should fly within 5,000 kilometres of Neptune on Aug. 24, 1989," a spokesman for the Jet Propulsion Laboratory said. Instructions were sent to the spacecraft several weeks ago, telling it to fire its hydrazine-fuelled thrusters, small manoeuvring rockets, so it could avoid smashing into any rings of boulders, rocks or pebbles which may be circling Neptune, the spokesman said. The mid-course correction took 70 minutes and increased the speed of Voyager 2 by 22 kph, to 69,690 kph, the spokesman said. The Jet Propulsion Laboratory runs the U.S. unmanned space programme for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

2 more teens commit suicide in U.S.

CHICAGO (R) — Two teen-age girls have killed themselves here in an apparent suicide pact similar to one that took the lives of four east coast youngsters two days ago. The deaths have set off an anguished look by Americans at teenage suicides, the second biggest killer of young people in the United States after car crashes. The bodies of Nancy Grannan, 19, and Karen Logan, 17, were found in the Chicago suburb of Alsip. They were in a car with the engine running in the closed garage of Logan's home.

New AIDS blood test reported

ZURICH (R) — A Swedish virologist reported a new AIDS blood test using synthetic antigens that would be much cheaper and more reliable than existing tests. Anders Vahne said the test, developed at Gothenburg University, was so accurate that it would eliminate the need for a second test, usually done to double-check those found to be "AIDS positive" — that is, with AIDS antibodies in their blood. Vahne said the test could be on the market in four to eight months. A small Swiss firm helped to finance it. Trials on 400 infected people and 1,000 "AIDS negative" volunteers had a remarkable 100 per cent accuracy rate, Vahne said.

Morticians charge extra for AIDS victims

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Some morticians in the San Francisco area charge up to \$300 extra to handle the bodies of AIDS victims, the San Francisco Examiner newspaper has reported. In a survey of more than a dozen funeral homes, the paper discovered that many morticians absorb extra costs associated with AIDS victims, but some add fees for equipment used in such cases, including rubber gloves, face masks and scrub suits. Norm Nickens, of the city's Human Rights Commission, called the extra charges outrageous and blamed them on irrational fears about the disease. Dr. George Rutherford, medical director of the San Francisco AIDS Office, said no cases of acquired immune deficiency syndrome transmission have occurred due to embalming procedures.

Locusts off the menu in Thailand

BANGKOK (R) — Thai gourmets will have to do without their favourite hors d'oeuvre in coming weeks. Locusts are off the menu nationwide. But the tasty insects would be unwise to relax, as they now face a slow death from sprayed insecticides in a new anti-locust drive to help farmers starting on March 21. Locusts killed by insecticides will be unfit for human consumption, Agriculture Ministry officials warn.

U.K. to mint new 'Britannia' gold coin

LONDON (R) — Britain plans to mint and market a new series of bullion coins, including a one-ounce (28.3-gramme) piece of 24-carat gold to be called the "Britannia," a treasury official has said. The new investment coins, to be sold worldwide from next autumn, will fluctuate in price according to the international price of gold. The smaller coins will be in denominations of a half ounce, a quarter ounce and a tenth of an ounce. Britain's only other gold coin at present, called the sovereign and weighing 0.2354 ounces, has been minted since 1817. It is now sold for investment purposes. The Britannia will feature a portrait of Queen Elizabeth II on one side and on the other the figure of Britannia, a seated female figure seen as the personification of Britain holding a trident and the national shield.

Sex hormones linked to high blood pressure

NEW ORLEANS (R) — Scientists have found that young men and women with high sex hormone levels are more likely to suffer from high blood pressure as they grow older. People with relatively high levels of sex hormones — testosterone in men and progesterone in women — will probably suffer from high blood pressure as they age, according to the study by a team of researchers at Louisiana State University Medical School. Larry Webber, a member of the research team, said scientists do not yet understand why correlation exists.

Marines banned from red-light district

GENOA, Italy (R) — U.S. Marines on a visit to Italy's northern port of Genoa have been banned from the bars and nightclubs of the red-light district, a Sixth Fleet spokesman said. He told Reuters that part of the city had been declared off-limits to Marines from the USS Spartanburg County and USS Newport at the suggestion of Genoa police. Both the spokesman and the police declined to give reasons for the ban, setting off a flurry of speculation by bar and nightclub owners who linked it to everything from fears of AIDS to anti-terrorism measures.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
©1986 Tribune Media Services, Inc.
ANSWER TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠864 ♠A1052
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass

What do you bid now?
A—With your distribution, no trump doesn't look appealing as a resting place. Therefore, you should simply continue to describe your hand, and three clubs serves the purpose nicely. Three spades is worth considering, but you don't really want to support a suit that partner has not rebid with only three low cards.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AKJ97 ♣A10922 ♠KJ98
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one spade. What action do you take?
A—Back in the Old Country they dispensed good advice: When the opponents bid your best suit, pass. You can't double or bid no trump with your singleton heart, and to overcall with two of a minor on a weak four-card suit asks for trouble.

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠85 ♣K76 ♠AKQ763 ♠K8
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one spade. What action do you take?
A—If you have a gambling disposition, you might try three no trump, but we would prefer that you held a seventh diamond, or the jack as well, for such action. Our choice would be to double, intending to remove any bid partner might make to no trump at the same level. That invites him to go on to game if he has a smattering of values.

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠QJ1097652 ♠83 ♠Q76

The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 NT Pass

What action do you take?
A—Don't repeat your story. Your bid of three clubs told partner that you hold nine or ten black cards and would prefer a suit contract to no trump. Despite that, partner chose to bid three no trump. Since he knows your hand while you know little about his, it would be foolhardy to question his judgment by bidding again.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AQ765 ♣93 ♠109742
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 NT Pass

What action do you take?
A—Stranger as it might seem, we suggest you bid three no trump! Your hand rates to produce seven tricks, and you hope partner can come up with two more before the opponents get five. Then isn't redouble better? Yes, if you are going to play there. But the odds are that the opponents have some contract, probably in a major, and perhaps even a profitable sacrifice against three no trump. Your bid makes it more difficult for them to locate their best spot.

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠85 ♣95 ♠AQ107632
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South
1 NT Double?

What action do you take?
A—Strange as it might seem, we suggest you bid three no trump! Your hand rates to produce seven tricks, and you hope partner can come up with two more before the opponents get five. Then isn't redouble better? Yes, if you are going to play there. But the odds are that the opponents have some contract, probably in a major, and perhaps even a profitable sacrifice against three no trump. Your bid makes it more difficult for them to locate their best spot.